

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

U.S. rulers worry that aid won't stabilize Russia

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

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Join the battle to defeat Caterpillar's war on labor

Organize massive solidarity campaign now!

The following statement was issued by the Political Committee of the Socialist Workers Party April 6, 1992.

With the April 1 announcement that it would begin hiring scabs to break the five-month strike by the United Auto Workers (UAW) union, the Caterpillar company has now openly declared war on the labor movement.

A major solidarity campaign — one that involves the entire labor movement, young people, and working farmers — is needed to defend the union from this assault. It is an opportunity to do to Caterpillar and its president, Donald Fites, what working people were not able to do to Frank Lorenzo at Continental and Eastern Airlines: decisively defeat the union-busting assault and emerge with a stronger union. The stakes are higher but the opportunity is more favorable. This campaign can be an international one, with workers at Caterpillar plants from South Africa to Belgium and Japan leading the way.

In throwing down the gauntlet, the agricultural implements company is taking another step toward what many working people sensed the company's goal has been since it forced UAW members out on strike: to attempt to break a major union in the United States in a important industrial sector of the economy, setting a precedent for the auto barons and major corporations in the steel, trucking, electrical, and other industries.

No unionist, fighting worker, young person, or activist in any progressive social protest movement should have illusions



Militant/Nancy Rosenstock

March 22 Peoria rally showed potential for mobilizing support for strike

about the ramifications the battle now joined has for all working people and for the relationship of class forces within which all struggles for social justice and democratic rights occur. For the first time since World War II, a major corporation has decided — with the support and backing of the banks and auto industry — to go all out to inflict a crushing blow on the UAW as a prelude to what they hope will be the greatest weakening of the labor movement since the consolidation of the Congress of Industrial Organizations 45 years ago.

Employers' assault

It is no surprise that such a test arises today. Caterpillar's assault is one sign of what the owners of banking, industry, and large agricultural enterprises have in store for working people, at home and abroad.

Faced with sharpening competition with their imperialist rivals and a world economic depression, the ruling rich in the United States

are driven toward war abroad while attacking the rights, standard of living, and organizations of those who produce the wealth in society — working people. The rulers are fighting to shift even more of the burden of the world market crisis onto the backs of workers and farmers around the globe.

Because the employers and their govern-

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Socialist candidates confront Buchanan

BY DOUG JENNESS

ST. PAUL, Minnesota — When ultra-rightist Patrick Buchanan arrived in Minnesota for a three-day campaign swing last week, he was confronted by Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president James Warren and Estelle DeBates. They were joined by Chris Nisan and Jo Rothenberg, SWP candidates for Congress in Minnesota's 5th and 4th districts. The socialist candidates also participated in protest actions directed against Buchanan's reactionary politics.

One hour before Buchanan was scheduled to speak to the state legislature April 2, Warren told a news conference on the state capitol steps that the Republican candidate is a demagogue "who represents a deadly danger to working people. He claims to defend common people against the corruption and greed of 'big government,' the banks, and politicians.

"He addresses the real and perceived concerns of millions, but with 'solutions' that spell disaster for working people," Warren stated. Buchanan places the blame on and makes scapegoats out of immigrant work-

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Caterpillar strikers hold mass pickets

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Hundreds of striking United Auto Workers (UAW) members and their supporters rallied in front of Caterpillar plants throughout central Illinois April 6. The rallies and mass picket lines were the union's response to Caterpillar's effort to impose its concession contract and break the 5-month-long UAW strike. Caterpillar had sent a letter to each of the 11,800 union members on strike and told them to be at work 7:00 a.m. April 6 or risk being replaced by workers hired off the street.

In Decatur, Illinois, 2,000 Caterpillar strikers and their families lined a quarter-mile road leading to the main gate of the plant. The 7:00 a.m. rally was joined by members of the United Rubber Workers union from the nearby Firestone tire plant, International Association of Machinists strikers at Revere Company, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and railroad workers from the United Transportation Union. As the shift change whistle sounded at 7:18 a.m. a big cheer went up from the crowd. They were celebrating the fact that only a handful of UAW members had crossed the picket line out of 2,000 members. The crowd then broke into a chant of "Hell no, we won't go!"

In Peoria, Illinois, the center of Caterpillar's production facilities, hundreds of strikers massed in front of plant entrances around the area. Only a small number of UAW members crossed the picket lines there.

Strikers on the picket line discussed the

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500,000 rally in largest abortion rights march ever

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND SELVA NEBBIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At least half a million people, overwhelmingly college students, marched here April 5 in support of abortion rights. The demonstration, called by the National Organization for Women (NOW), demanded protection of the right to safe, legal, and accessible birth control and abortion, and full reproductive freedom for all women.

The right of women to choose abortion has come under sharp attack. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments April 22 on a Pennsylvania case that could further limit access to abortion or overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion in 1973.

Chants of "Choice! Now!" and "One, two, three, four, five — keep *Roe v. Wade* alive; six, seven, eight, nine, ten — we'll never go

back again" echoed in the streets of downtown Washington as the march wound its way from the White House to the Mall near the Capitol. The crowd was estimated at 500,000 by the police and at 750,000 by the organizers.

Marchers came mainly from college campuses on the East Coast and the Midwest. For many it was their first demonstration. Most of the placards carried by demonstrators were distributed by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) and Planned Parenthood. "I am the face of pro-choice America," read the Planned Parenthood signs. Many NARAL placards read: "We will decide November 3rd" on one side, in reference to the U.S. presidential elections, and "Freedom of choice, from State House to White House," or "Pass the Freedom of

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Farm crisis of 1990s discussed at Militant Labor Forum in Iowa

BY JON HILLSON

DES MOINES, Iowa — "Congratulations for writing this little pamphlet," Carroll Nearmyer, vice-president of the Iowa American Agricultural Movement (AAM) told Doug Jenness, author of *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*, in front of a Militant Labor Forum audience here March 21.

"You're on track," the Iowa hog farmer said. "I wish we could figure out how to get this powerful booklet into the hands of everyone in Iowa."

The 35-page pamphlet was recently published by Pathfinder. Jenness, an industrial worker from St. Paul and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party in Minnesota, has written extensively about developments in agriculture and issues facing working farmers.

Jenness, Nearmyer, and Larry Ginter, an AAM activist and the organization's former state secretary, spent two hours exchanging ideas and fielding questions from the audience of union members and students on the roots of the devastating conditions facing farmers and how to combat them.

Nearmyer detailed his grim battle to stave off foreclosure in the face of unpayable debt and mounting bank pressures.

"They want to drive me off the land," he said. How the "law," the government, and the banks go after debt, he said, "is determined by who's got the money and who doesn't."

More and more farmers like Nearmyer, Jenness explained, "will be forced under" in the deepening depression, not because they "can't or don't produce. They do. They produce far more value than they get back in return and they produce something that is useful for society."

But, he said, "they are being squeezed by the billionaire traders and agribusiness capitalists who face increased competition with their European and other rivals in their drive for profits."

These sharpened antagonisms lead to trade wars, Jenness said, "and that's where shooting wars can start."

Working farmers, he explained, "don't engage in world trade." They sell their produce to traders, who wheel and deal in the marketplace, buying cheap and selling dear.

"The competition," Jenness said, "is between capitalist traders, not the farmers of different countries."

"Good point!" Larry Ginter noted. "We can

scapegoat all we want to, but there comes a time when we have to say, 'what's going on here?'; when the farmers better find out what is going on in the cities and the workers better figure out what is happening with farmers."

One member of the audience, a meat-packer at Iowa Beef Processing, asked the farmers for aid in countering local media claims of a bumper year for hog farmers, aimed at covering up their desperate straits while stunting opportunities for farmer-labor unity.

"It's true that some hog farmers did a little better this past year," Nearmyer said. "But you ask your coworkers if for the past four or five years they were making \$2 an hour, and then they made \$7 an hour last year, how good has it been for them these last years? Maybe that'll help clear up how good it's been for us."

The discussion touched on many questions related to the deepening international economic crisis, including whether the changes in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union would offer capitalism big opportunities for expansion.

The Des Moines farm crisis forum was the second event utilizing the new pamphlet. On March 6 Jenness spoke on the same topic at a meeting in Salt Lake City.

On March 21, Jenness and Nearmyer were among the thousands who marched in Peoria, Illinois, in solidarity with striking Caterpillar workers, many of them from local family farms. The pamphlet was featured at Pathfinder literature tables.

Caterpillar strike important for farmers

Jenness made the point, "This strike and its outcome are crucial for working farmers. Not only do many Caterpillar strikers work on the land but this fight opens up the possibility of a real alliance of workers and farmers to fight against the effects of the capitalist crisis. I hope a lot of Caterpillar strikers will get a chance to read the pamphlet, and I think working farmers should get down to the picket lines in Peoria, Decatur, and other cities to show their solidarity. This really is a common struggle with a lot at stake."

Promotion of *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s* is being coordinated nationally by the Twin Cities Pathfinder Bookstore, which is sending out promotional copies to nationally prominent farm activists, review copies, and a publication an-



Militant/Jon Hillson

From left: Doug Jenness, Larry Ginter, and Carroll Nearmyer at Des Moines forum.

nouncement. Feedback and reactions from farmers and unionists who purchase the pamphlet are also being sought.

Retired western Minnesota farmer John Enestvedt, a veteran of 70 years of struggle dating from the Non-Partisan League and the 1930s Farm Holiday Movement, called the Pathfinder publication a "thorough-going pamphlet. . . . Read *Farmers Face the Crisis of the 1990s*. It is a must. Learn from the facts that Jenness provides."

Walt King, a former member of the United Auto Workers union, who raised calves and

hay on his Grand Meadow, Minnesota, farm last year, also had praise for the pamphlet. Author Jenness, he told *Militant* supporter Monica Nigan, really did his homework. "This book is full of facts." He told Nigan, however, that he wasn't sure about the proposal that the land be nationalized. She urged him to write a letter to the *Militant* raising his questions.

Comments on the pamphlet, favorable or unfavorable, should be sent to: Pathfinder Bookstore, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104.

Supporters of jailed unionist on final push for parole fund

BY MIKE GALATI

DES MOINES, Iowa — Activists in the Mark Curtis Defense Committee are gearing up to complete the international drive to raise \$75,000 for the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund. As of March 23, supporters of the framed-up union and political activist had collected \$20,273. The effort by Iowa supporters of Mark Curtis to help make this fund drive was the focus of the March 24 monthly public meeting of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, held in this city's North Side Library.

Priscilla Schenk, a leader of the defense committee, reported on recent developments in Curtis's case. She briefly reviewed the tremendous victory won by Mark Curtis when a federal judge ruled January 31 that the beating Mark received at the hands of the Des Moines police the night of his arrest had violated his constitutional rights. The judge awarded Curtis \$11,000 in damages and more than \$49,000 to be paid in attorneys fees.

Schenk spoke about the continuing efforts by those who back Curtis's frame-up to chip away at this victory. She pointed out that supporters of the police frame-up of Curtis charged in a recent radio interview that he had faked the evidence of his beating. She also explained how the attorneys for Keith

and Denise Morris, parents of the woman Curtis was falsely accused of attacking, have moved to seize both the damages awarded to Curtis and the fees for his attorneys.

Schenk reviewed the big changes that have been made in how the defense committee operates. Weekly business meetings are held at supporters' houses where the central tasks of the committee are organized. This includes answering the mail, paying bills, and mailing materials to support groups. She pointed out that this was the first of the monthly public meetings, where supporters and others interested in finding out about Mark's case can gather and have political discussions.

Schenk explained that supporters internationally were striving to finish raising the \$75,000 in pledges for the Mark Curtis Parole Now! Fund drive by April 4.

Those attending adopted a goal of raising \$1,750 from supporters in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska. Volunteers signed up to do evening phone calling to update supporters on developments in the case and invite them to participate in the Parole Now! Fund.

Mike Galati is a member of United Food and Commercial Workers Local 50N. He works in the Monfort packinghouse in Marshalltown, Iowa.

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New York cancels Canada power contract

Quebec government blames Cree Indians for opposing hydroelectric dam

BY ROGER ANNIS

The Quebec government has stepped up a racist campaign against Cree and Inuit peoples in northern Quebec following the March 27 decision by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to cancel a \$12 billion electricity contract with Hydro-Quebec.

The contract was to provide 1,000 megawatts of power over 20 years from the construction of seven dams along the Great

Quebec's rulers use racism and nationalist demagoguery in order to prevent united struggle by working people

Whale River, which flows into Hudson Bay. The cost of the project was to be around \$13 billion.

The Cree have spearheaded an intense and widely publicized fight against the project because it would involve the flooding of more than 4,000 square kilometers of their historic lands, part of a larger territory inhabited by 12,000 Cree and 6,000 Inuit.

The Cree have taken their campaign before the United Nations and other international bodies and last year they succeeded in forcing the Quebec and Canadian governments to hold lengthy environmental reviews before the project can proceed.

At the same time, growing numbers of working people question the billions of dollars spent on huge electric power megaprojects with no consideration either of the environmental consequences or the need for systematic energy conservation measures.

In Quebec alone, for example, two-thirds of all dwellings lack adequate insulation against cold weather, thus obliging working people to spend large sums for heating during the winter months.

The Cree oppose the dams because the flooding releases massive amounts of methyl mercury into the food chain, rendering the fish inedible for generations. It also threatens the birds and animals that live or migrate to and from the areas to be flooded.

This destroys traditional livelihoods while replacing them with no new ones.

"I blame them [the Cree] for discrediting Quebec all over the world," said Quebec energy minister Lise Bacon March 31. "Do you think a Quebecker can accept that?"

"The territory that they claim is theirs is still ours. We haven't given it up yet."

"The land still belongs to Quebeccois," she continued, switching to the French language, "and Quebeccois are the ones who will develop it. Natives are not going to stop us from doing that."

Bacon accused the Cree of jeopardizing the economic future of Quebec.

Quebec's capitalist rulers use Quebeccois nationalist demagoguery to win the support of workers who are Quebeccois for programs that are in the interest of the rulers themselves.

At the same time, they seek to divide the oppressed and exploited along national, language, or color lines in order to prevent a united struggle by working people for their common interests.

At environmental hearings on the project held March 16 in Montreal, Richard Le Hir, vice-president of the Quebec Manufacturers' Association, accused the Cree of holding "the people of Quebec hostage."

He compared the Cree to an aristocracy enjoying tax privileges that others don't have and said they are preventing thousands of unemployed Quebeccois from getting jobs.

At the same hearings, United Steelworkers of America union representative Victor Murray claimed the real aim of the Cree is to get "control of the natural resources of the territory... which would make them the sheiks of the North."

Once they had control of the territory, he charged, the Cree would build their own power plants and sell electricity to the province of Ontario.

The Cree and Inuit opposition to Great Whale is based on their experience with an earlier Hydro-Quebec development along the La Grande River, the first phase of which was completed in 1984. The second phase will be finished in 1996.

Altogether, the La Grande, or James Bay 1, project will flood 15,000 square kilometers of land.

A 1975 agreement by the Cree and Inuit with the Quebec government provided for tens of millions of dollars in compensation for loss of villages, fishing grounds, and hunting and trapping territory caused by the flooding. The agreement also granted limited land rights for purposes of hunting and fishing.

The money has been used to finance small-scale Cree-owned capitalist development such as tourism and transportation, and to build schools, hospitals, and housing.

The limited benefits have been far outweighed by the devastation the communities directly affected. This is the most evident in Chisasibi, the Cree village located at the mouth of the La Grande River.

Chisasibi is a new community, built from scratch to provide for the evacuation of Fort George, a village that was located on an island in the mouth of the La Grande. The island will eventually be washed into James Bay by the increased river flow caused by the electricity project.

Forty percent of Chisasibi's Cree and Inuit residents live from hunting and trapping. Fully half are unemployed.

Social problems such as alcoholism, family violence, and suicide are very high in Chisasibi. In this village of 2,500 there were an average of three suicide attempts per week in 1989.

Only some 10 Native people are among the 700 year-round employees at the hydro developments along the La Grande. At the height of summer, there are only 150 Natives employed out of a total labor force of 2,500.

Mercury poisoning

The worst blow suffered by residents there has been the mercury poisoning of the fish. By 1984, two out of three residents of Chisasibi had high levels of mercury poisoning as a result of eating fish, a mainstay of their diet. Mercury poisoning damages the central nervous system and leads to death when accumulated levels become high enough.

"Nimass akwisin [the Cree word for fish disease] strikes at the very heart of our society," explained George Lameboy to the April 14, 1990, *Globe and Mail*. "It's like being told that Armageddon has started and people are scared as hell."

Since 1984, the rate of poisoning has dropped. This is only because of a drastic cut in fish consumption by Native people. However, this has meant more unemployment and greater reliance on more expensive packaged foods imported into the community.

"The scientists come in and tell us we're getting better, but, hey... How can you measure your way of life coming to an end?" said Lameboy.

Hydro-Quebec spokesman Serge Dubé dismissed Native concerns over mercury poisoning. He said, "Facing tomorrow implies cultural genocide; progress means giving up our old ways. We can't live in the 16th century forever."

Dubé's comments falsely imply that the Cree oppose economic development on principle. In fact, what they are demanding is the

right to decide how their lands will be used and what economic and environmental standards should apply to any developments.

The Cree expressed joy with the NYPA decision. "This is a tremendous, tremendous victory," said Bill Namagoose of the Grand Council of the Crees.

But they also explain that their fight is far from over. The Quebec government intends to go ahead with Great Whale and it has plans to subsequently build a third phase of electric power projects, this one along the Nottaway, Rupert, and Broadback Rivers, that would flood a further 6,500 square kilometers.

The Cree and Inuit opposition to the Great Whale project has pitted them squarely

stituted an unfair trade subsidy.

Canada's capitalists, including those in Quebec, face deepening trade conflict with the United States as a result of increasing price competition with their rivals there. Despite the so-called free trade agreement between Ottawa and Washington, recent U.S. rulings have placed big restrictions on the import of lumber and "Japanese" cars produced in Canada.

The loss of the NYPA electricity contract has added yet another uncertainty into the Quebec capitalists' plans for future profits.

The NYPA decision was strictly a business decision. The authority had demanded that Hydro-Quebec lower the selling price of its



Inuit family at Melville Sound. Quebec government has stepped up racist campaign against Cree and Inuit people. 'The territory they claim is theirs is still ours,' asserted Quebec energy minister. 'Natives are not going to stop us.'

against the rising Quebeccois capitalists for whom Hydro-Quebec, the fourth largest electric utility in the world, is one of their major achievements.

Since its formation in the early 1960s from the nationalization of a number of private power companies, Hydro-Quebec has served as a huge pool of capital for the expansion of Quebec capitalism. Its current long-term debt totals \$25.6 billion.

Successive Quebec governments have fostered industrial development by providing cheap electricity to Canadian-based industries such as aluminum smelting and steel production.

One 1991 study at Laval University in Quebec City concluded that four aluminum companies that recently built smelters in Quebec would pay \$300 million per year less for electricity over the next 24 years than if they paid Hydro-Quebec's price to buyers in the United States.

That strategy took a blow last year when the U.S. Commerce Department slapped a 33 percent import duty on Norsk Hydro, a Norwegian-owned manganese-smelting company in Quebec, alleging that cheap power rates provided by Hydro-Quebec con-

electricity by 30 percent and then walked out of the deal when their demand was refused.

NYPA Chairman Richard Flynn told the press conference announcing the cancellation of the contract, "We think that if you can get the price right, buying power from Hydro-Quebec is good for the Quebeccois and good for New Yorkers."

Flynn says energy demand is decreasing because of the impact of conservation programs, and that electricity can be produced from natural gas at 30 percent less cost than Hydro-Quebec's selling price.

While New York State's cancellation of the hydroelectric contract was strictly a business decision, the Quebec government has used it to step up a racist campaign against the Cree and other Native people.

Working people should oppose these racist attacks and instead support the struggle for the right of Native people to control their lands and local governments and to overcome deep-going inequality and intolerable social conditions.

Roger Annis is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1900 in Montreal.

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Los Angeles cops dealt two setbacks

Two men freed after 17-year frame-up; police unit found liable in killings

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and its chief, Daryl Gates, have been dealt two substantial setbacks. On March 25 a judge freed two Black men who spent 17 years in prison after being framed up on a murder charge by members of the LAPD.

Then, on March 30 a federal jury found Chief Gates and members of the LAPD's Special Investigations Section (SIS) liable in the killing of three Latino youths and the wounding of a fourth.

The jury ordered Gates and the SIS to pay damages amounting to \$44,042 in the wrongful shooting of the four Latino youth. It directed Gates to pay \$20,505 of this amount on the basis that he was ultimately responsible for what the SIS squad had done.

"He's the leader," one juror observed. "He's responsible for controlling his officers."

The award came in a civil damage suit filed by the lone survivor of the police shootout and the families of the three youths who were killed. Jurors indicated they had awarded a low amount because the four had been involved in a robbery.

Jurors also expressed the wish that Gates and the SIS cops pay the damages out of their own pockets and not, as is customary, have it paid out of city funds.

The shadowy SIS squad selects what it calls "career criminals" for surveillance, sometimes following them for months. When the squad decides that those targeted are committing a robbery or similar offense, they stand by until it's over and then move in, often pumping bullets.

Established 25 years ago, the SIS squad has killed a reported 28 people and wounded 27 more.

In the case of the four Latino youths, the squad stood by and watched while they entered a McDonald's restaurant that was closing down for the night, bound and gagged the manager, and took cash from the safe.

As they returned to their car, the SIS squad directed a hail of gunfire against them.

In presenting the damage suit, attorney Stephen Yagman had branded SIS "Assassins with badges. . . . A death squad."

Responding to the jury's verdict, Yagman declared:

"The object of this case was to bring an end to a murderous unit of the LAPD that has existed for years and been condoned by Daryl Gates.

"The message is that this unit should be disbanded."

Earlier, Eli Green, Socialist Workers candidate for the county board of supervisors, had addressed an open letter to labor, civil liberties, and civil rights groups urging that they consider demanding the abolition of the SIS squad.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles city council unanimously called for a grand jury investigation of the police frame-up that sent two innocent people, Benny Powell and Clarence

Chance, to prison for more than 17 years.

Previously, Mayor Thomas Bradley also called for a grand jury probe of the affair.

Powell and Chance were convicted of murdering a sheriff's deputy and given life sentences.

In prison, after futile appeals, they won the support of James McCloskey, a lay minister who undertakes to investigate cases of people in prison if he is convinced they are innocent.

Through dogged investigation, he dug up the damning facts of the frame-up.

There was no physical evidence tying either Chance or Powell to the killing.

The only "eyewitness" to testify against them was an 11-year-old girl. It was established that she did so under relentless police pressure.

Several other witnesses, who had implicated the two men, later gave affidavits that they too had been subjected to strong police pressure.

The prosecution withheld from the jury

the fact that a jailhouse informer who testified had failed two lie detector tests and had told conflicting stories.

Lastly, it was established that on the day of the killing, Chance was in jail on an assault charge that was dismissed.

Prison records show he was cleared for "debooking" two hours before the killing. But with paperwork and processing, Chance was not actually released until after the killing.

With the stench created by these facts, the county prosecutor's office took the unusual step of joining the defense in petitioning the court for the release of the two victims.

Their release was bitterly assailed at a special press conference by Chief Gates and detective William Hall. Hall had played a key role in sending the two men to prison.

The former detective is now a police lieutenant with the special assignment of conducting investigations when cops get involved in a shooting to determine if they acted properly.



Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates

Issue of Los Angeles police racism finally surfaces in Rodney King trial

BY HARRY RING

LOS ANGELES — The issue of police racism finally surfaced, at least partially, in the trial of the four cops charged in the beating of Rodney King.

While Lawrence Powell, one of the four, was on the witness stand, his lawyer inadvertently opened the door for introducing as evidence the text of the now notorious "Go-

rillas in the Mist" message Powell had sent to another cop a few minutes before he joined in the beating of King.

Discussing the issue before the judge, Assistant District Attorney Terry White disclosed that the prosecution had agreed that if it should decide to introduce evidence "showing racism as a motivating factor" in the beating of King, counsel for the defense

would first be notified.

The prosecution completed the presentation of its case without even hinting at the issue of racism. It apparently decided to modify this strategy while Powell was testifying in his own defense. Led by his lawyer, Michael Stone, Powell was trying to explain away the message he had sent on his patrol car computer to another cop, Corina Smith, in which he boasted, "I haven't beaten anyone this bad in a long time."

Powell testified this was merely "professional jargon" intended to indicate he had been involved in "a big old Donnybrook."

Stone then asked if he had sent any other "nonessential" messages on his computer that night and Powell answered no.

At that point the prosecutor requested of the court that he be permitted to introduce Powell's "gorillas" message, also sent that night to Corina Smith.

Sent some 20 minutes before the King beating, Powell's message referred to an incident he had just handled involving a Black family. He likened it to something "right out of 'Gorillas in the Mist.'" This is a film about wildlife in Africa.

Powell denied the message had any racist connotation, but was hard pressed to come up with another explanation.

Earlier, Powell testified that King had lunged toward him and "collided" with his club. With that, he added, King fell to the ground "like a rag doll."

It was that fall, Powell asserted, not the blows from his club, that caused the fractured cheek bone and facial lacerations suffered by King.

Des Moines grand jury refuses to charge cops in beating case

BY SHIRLEY PEÑA

DES MOINES, Iowa — A Polk County grand jury decided March 20 not to indict three Des Moines police officers involved in the beating of Larry Milton.

Milton, a 35-year-old Black man, was brutally beaten December 28 by Sgt. Joanne Pollack and officers Thomas Heller and Steve Strawser. The cops admitted striking Milton repeatedly with a flashlight, claiming he posed a danger to them and exhibited "superhuman strength."

Witnesses to the beating reported the cops beat Milton both before and after placing cuffs on his hands and legs. As Milton cried out for them to stop, Sgt. Pollack yelled back, "shut up nigger," making it clear that Milton's crime was being Black.

Witnesses reported the beating lasted a "good twenty minutes." It took 22 special surgical staples to close the wound to Milton's head.

Hundreds of working people, overwhelmingly Black, have rallied against this act of police brutality. The slogan "No Excuse" has come to symbolize widespread public sentiment, rejecting all attempts by police to rationalize the beating.

The cops pointed to Milton's prior arrest record claiming "there's every reason to believe he has a substance abuse problem."

Cops also claimed that those active in protesting cop brutality were gang members, and violence-baited and red-baited protesters. Subsequently the cops invited local media to accompany them when they went to arrest Milton and his wife, Aries, on unrelated shoplifting charges.

When called before the grand jury Milton declined to testify. He said he was advised by his attorney Alfredo Parrish not to testify since any statements he made could be used against him when he goes to court on the police charges of public intoxication and resisting arrest that stemmed from his beating.

Parrish told reporters he was not surprised by the decision of the grand jury, in light of the fact that Milton declined to testify.

"The system of justice once again failed without a doubt," Kalonji Saadiq, station

manager of KUCB, told the Des Moines Register.

"We must continue to press, to publicly demonstrate and demand that these brutal cops be put in jail," said Cleve Andrew Pulley, a leader of recent actions and Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate in Iowa.

Police officials have seized on the grand jury decision to step up their attacks on opponents of police brutality. Police chief William Moulder told the press, "There is no question in my mind that many chose to make a decision in the case without any information."

Still pending are three additional investigations into the police beating of Milton: by the police department's own internal affairs unit, the U.S. Justice Department, and the state Ombudsman's Office.

Police department spokesmen say they expect their own investigation to be completed quickly.

D.C. cops indicted for assault

BY BOB MILLER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A superior court grand jury here indicted three cops February 19 on assault charges for beating Andrew Young III, an 18-year-old freshman at Howard University. "Bo" Young is the son of the former mayor of Atlanta.

At a February 28 Militant Labor Forum here entitled "Police brutality — how to fight against it," Hilary Shelton, Bo Young's brother-in-law, described the September 28 police attack on Young.

The police, standing in the street outside a house party, stopped Young's car at 2:00 a.m. a few blocks from Howard University. "The cops pulled him out of the car and beat him," Shelton recounted.

The three cops indicted for assault are Black. The cops also arrested Young for "disorderly conduct." Shelton said that Young's ankle had been broken in three places and was extremely swollen. Yet they had him in a wheelchair with his hands and ankles cuffed. "He had to waive medical treatment to get the ankle cuffs off. He then

hopped out of the hospital on one foot," Shelton told the forum.

Shelton explained that after the police van took Young back to the station, he was free to go because someone else, Young's roommate, had pleaded guilty for him on the disorderly conduct charge and paid the fine.

Shelton also reviewed the false story that the police gave and that was accepted by the media. "The cops claimed they stopped Young's car because he 'sped' — a descriptive word, but there was no ticket for speeding. They said Young was combative, yet there was no charge of assault."

Shelton added that when he went to the police district office to complain about the abuse his brother-in-law suffered, he was told Young looked fine when he walked out of the station. "But I saw him hop out on one foot with my own eyes," Shelton told the forum.

The D.C. Civilian Complaint Review Board has a backlog of 1,000 cases, some going back to 1987.



Militant/Holbrook Mahn
Eli Green, socialist candidate for board of supervisors, supports abolition of police Special Investigations Section.

UN sets course for sanctions against Libya

Under pretext of fighting 'terrorism' Security Council vote opens door to war

BY SETH GALINSKY

In a move that further opens the door to war, the United Nations Security Council voted March 31 to impose a ban on air travel and arms sales to Libya. The measures are set to begin April 15 if Tripoli refuses to hand over two Libyans — accused of bombing a Pan Am flight over Scotland in 1988 — to the United States or Britain and to "cease all forms of terrorist action."

Thomas Pickering, chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, said the Security Council must be "prepared to back up its own words with actions and demonstrate that it will protect itself against a state that engages in terrorism."

Libya, while denying charges of government involvement in the bombing, has pointed out that it has no extradition treaty with Britain or the United States, but offered to try the two in Libya. Washington and London rejected the Libyan proposal out of hand.

"No country hands over citizens of its own," a high-ranking official of the Arab League told the *Washington Post*. "This is the weak point for the United States and Britain, and they realize that but they say, 'Who cares now?' Which means it's might over right."

In the days leading up to the vote, the U.S. and British governments, joined by France, increased the pressure on other members of the Security Council to ensure the resolution against Libya would pass. France wants to question four Libyans about the explosion of a flight over the Sahara in September 1989 and has demanded the extradition of a Palestinian allegedly involved in a July 1988 attack on a cruise ship off the coast of Greece.

Resolution passes by smaller margin

After China expressed opposition to the resolution, the vote was delayed and Washington warned China that if it exercised its veto power it could face reprisals, including an end to most-favored-nation trade status. Five countries, including China, abstained on the vote. The resolution passed with 10 yes votes out of the 15-member council — just one vote more than the minimum required for passage — a smaller margin than for any of the council's anti-Iraq resolutions leading up to the Gulf war.

Nationair strikers call boycott

BY HEIDI ROSE

TORONTO — Three hundred Nationair flight attendants and their supporters took to the streets here in bitter cold March 14 to call public attention to their fight to win a contract.

The flight attendants, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), have been locked out by Nationair since last November. Faced with the company's refusal to negotiate, they have appealed for a boycott of the airline.

The youthful marchers wore buttons and carried banners and placards bearing the symbol of the struggle against the lockout — a red slash "stop" symbol through Nationair with the slogan "support the boycott."

Cheers and greetings in English and French went up at the arrival of two busloads of Nationair flight attendants from Montreal.

Speakers at the rally vowed that Nationair workers would stay out "one minute longer" than owner Robert Obadia. Speakers included CUPE national president Judy Darcy and Gord Wilson, president of the Ontario Federation of Labor.

Darcy condemned the federal government for supporting Nationair's union-busting by continuing to use the airline for military charter flights.

Two Conservative Party members of parliament recently joined in the antiunion campaign by calling on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate the union boycott, which they called a "warped plot" to destroy the company.

The flight attendants have concluded that it will take a real fight to force Nationair to negotiate a contract. They have sought out opportunities to speak to various union locals. They have been present in support of other labor activities with their buttons and boycott fliers.



Tripoli after U.S. bombing April 15, 1986, which left 37 Libyans dead. In ominous move, UN Security Council set April 15 deadline for Libya to comply with 'antiterrorism' resolution. Washington has attacked Libya several times over last decade.

The UN resolution instructs governments around the world to "reduce the number and the level of the staff at Libyan diplomatic missions and consular posts."

While banning air travel to Libya and the supply of aircraft spare parts or maintenance, the resolution does not include a ban on the import of Libyan crude oil. Although the United States has not bought oil from Libya since instituting an embargo in 1982, Italy and Germany are dependent on Libyan crude, together importing 1 million barrels of oil a day.

The resolution asserts that "the failure by the Libyan Government to demonstrate, by concrete actions, its renunciation of terrorism . . . constitutes a threat to international peace and security." Libya "must commit itself definitively to cease all forms of terrorist

action and all assistance to terrorist groups, and . . . must promptly, by concrete actions, demonstrate its renunciation of terrorism."

British in Libya to evacuate

According to the *Washington Post*, among the demands the Security Council is making on Libya under the resolution, is that Tripoli provide information on alleged arms shipments to the Irish Republican Army.

In an ominous sign, Britain urged its 5,000 citizens working in Libya to evacuate. Thailand, with 30,000 workers there, and Bulgaria, with 6,000, followed suit. The United States and France had earlier told their citizens to leave.

The U.S. government has attacked Libya on several occasions over the last decade, always under the excuse of Libyan involvement in "terrorism."

- On August 19, 1981, U.S. forces shot down two Libyan air force planes over the Gulf of Sidra.

- In March 1986 U.S. planes firing guided missiles sank two Libyan ships and bombarded Libyan missile sites near the town of Sidra.

- In what was then the biggest U.S. air strike since the end of the Vietnam War, U.S. bombers hit Libya's two largest cities April 15, 1986. The bombers especially targeted the home of Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi, killing his year-old daughter and seriously injuring two sons. Altogether 37 Libyans were killed and 100 wounded, mostly civilians. It is no coincidence that the UN Security Council chose April 15 as its deadline for Libyan compliance with its latest resolution.

Why Libya?

U.S. hostility to the Libyan government goes back to Sept. 1, 1969, when King Idris was overthrown in a coup staged by junior army officers, including Qaddafi. Although there was no direct mass participation in the overthrow of the Idris regime, it marked the beginning of a revolution that swept aside the monarchy.

Among the new government's first acts were steps to reduce direct imperialist involvement in the country's political and economic life. British and U.S. military bases were evacuated at Tripoli's insistence.

Formerly an Italian colony, the government in July 1970 expropriated all Italian-held property, including land, livestock, and businesses.

The Libyan government doubled the minimum wage, lowered rents by decree, instituted free medical care, built hospitals and health clinics, and extended education, making it compulsory for all.

In July 1970 the three main domestic oil distribution companies, including Shell and Esso, were nationalized without compensation. Oil, which was only discovered in 1957,

is Libya's main and virtually only export. U.S. oil companies were forced to pay higher prices for the oil they extracted. Oil earnings soared from a little more than \$1 billion in 1969 to a peak of \$22 billion in 1980.

Libya also took an independent, although often wildly veering, course in foreign policy. In an attempt to consolidate a stable bourgeois regime, Qaddafi also sought to bring the growing working class under control. For example, in 1972, the government banned all strikes and instituted a system of mandatory arbitration for labor disputes.

Imperialist powers not pleased

Few of these measures were to the liking of the imperialist powers. While many of the economic gains have been eroded over the past decade with the steep drop in oil prices, the U.S. government has never given up hope of installing a regime that would follow its every demand.

In spite of the U.S. pressure campaign, some of its erstwhile allies from the war against Iraq have been reluctant to back the United States's latest aggressive moves.

On March 18, Presidents Hafez Assad of Syria and Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, both participants in the Gulf war against Iraq, gave a joint press conference opposing sanctions against Libya and new military action against Iraq. The Arab League, of which all Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization are members, also issued a resolution prior to the UN vote affirming solidarity with Libya.

Previous attacks on Libya have sparked massive protests in Tripoli against U.S. aggression and some critics of the UN sanctions are concerned that the attacks could backfire.

Mansour Kikhia, a former Libyan foreign minister and now an opponent of Qaddafi, said from Paris, "We worry about sanctions or military actions that can only hurt the Libyan people. The issue in Libya is that people in this case think the West is out to get Libya, not Muammar Qaddafi and his clique."

"We are opposed to the regime, but not to our own country," Kikhia stated.

In response to the Security Council resolution, demonstrations were organized in Libya, April 3. According to news reports several hundred students ransacked and burned the Venezuelan embassy as police stood by. Other embassies were also the scene of protests.

Taking advantage of the incidents, the Security Council passed a statement condemning the "intolerable and extremely grave events."

When asked if further measures against Libya were being contemplated, U.S. representative Pickering told reporters, "It's not possible for us to rule in or rule out any particular action."

Heidi Rose is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 2754 at Canadian Airlines.

Caterpillar issues call for scab work force

BY ANDREA GONZALEZ
AND MARY ZINS

EAST PEORIA, Illinois — In a major escalation of Caterpillar's attacks against the United Auto Workers union (UAW), the corporation announced April 1 it was calling for all striking employees to return to work Monday morning April 6 or face being replaced.

Caterpillar followed this threat with full-page ads, in the newspapers in the strike-affected areas of Illinois, headlined "It's time to come back to work." The company sent a letter to each UAW striker dated March 31, announcing its intention to resume full production.

"We want you to report to work on Monday," the letter says. "However, after April 6, we will begin to fill remaining openings by recalling laid-off employees and by hiring new permanent employees."

It continues, "During this strike, we have found that we require considerably fewer employees than we had prior to the strike. . . . If you do not decide to return before required openings are filled, you may lose your place in this reduced work force."

In response, UAW secretary-treasurer Bill Casstevens and the UAW bargaining committee announced that an additional 1,800 UAW workers at four Caterpillar facilities in Illinois would join the strike: 500 workers at the Mapleton Foundry, 520 at the Mossville Research Facility, 250 at the Chemical Products Division, and 550 workers at the Pontiac facility.

The expanded strike now involves 12,600 workers in Illinois. UAW members at the Morton-Delavan plant east of Peoria remain on the job as do workers at the Caterpillar facilities in York, Pennsylvania; Memphis, Tennessee; and Denver, Colorado.

The UAW invited laid-off members recalled to Caterpillar to come to the union halls, sign up for the strike, and receive strike benefits.

Local 974 in Peoria organized two-hour informational meetings throughout the week-end at the union hall. No room large enough for the local's 8,000 members was available for rental. From early morning to late evening workers poured into the meetings. Many spouses attended with the strikers. The local

also organized to contact each of its members by phone.

In Decatur, UAW Local 571 sponsored a mass informational meeting April 4. Three thousand strikers, their families, and supporters attended.

Jerry Brown, president of UAW Local 974, explained that these latest attacks "are part of a systematic approach to bust the union. We're finally hurting the company,"

A message to Caterpillar strikers and strike supporters

Please send in stories and information about developments in the strike to the *Militant*. This information will add to the paper's coverage of this important battle and help build solidarity across the country and worldwide. Mail your news items to the *Militant*, 410 West St, New York, NY 10014.

he said, "and they need to resume production in Decatur, Aurora, and Peoria. If our members stay united, we will be okay."

Brown explained that this giant construction, agriculture, and heavy equipment operator has yet to seriously negotiate with the union. After their first contract offer, "they offered to switch the concessions from the national contract to each local contract, trying to whipsaw the locals." In their last offer, he said, "they moved their concessions back to the national contract. Their last proposal includes shutting down the York facility, something we can't accept." He concluded, "No self-respecting union can accept these union-busting contract offers."

Foremen call on strikers at home

In an attempt to start a back-to-work movement, Caterpillar foremen are calling each striker at home, urging them to return to their jobs. Strikers on the picket line in East Peoria said local banks have sent letters to strikers saying that now that they have the opportunity to return to work, their mortgage payments and car loans, which had been frozen, are due each month.

One striker explained that there were a few strikers who may feel especially hard pressed financially and tempted to return to work. "We're organizing for a big turnout outside the plant to help convince everyone to stand with the union," he said.

The Peoria *Journal Star* included a column in its April 4 edition, for UAW members to ask questions about what it means if they return to work.

For answers, the newspaper relied on Jerry Brust, Caterpillar's chief negotiator. The paper and other media in central Illinois have consistently taken the company's side in articles and editorials throughout the five-month strike.

The Caterpillar letter reports that the company has taken many steps to help workers cross the picket line. These moves include "a court injunction limiting the number of

picketers and prohibiting any actions which interfere with or prevent entry and exit," significantly increased security at the plant, and working "closely with law enforcement agencies to ensure their prompt response." A new fence has been installed at the Decatur plant limiting access to company property.

Caterpillar's recent strike-breaking moves have made many workers more determined to hold the line. The Decatur mass meeting April 4 reflected the resolve of many of the strikers.

Larry Solomon, president of UAW Local 57, said, "It was a great meeting. I was astounded by the turnout. The gymnasium bleachers hold 2,700 and people were standing on the floor — we're estimating 3,000 attended."

"It's not been easy," he continued. "We've been on strike for five months; we're hurting, but we still have a lot of fight in us. Monday morning we'll be outside the plant."

Glenn Brunson, a machinist with 25 years at the Decatur plant, said, "Caterpillar thinks they own us, but they don't. Of course I've been union all my life, and I didn't need to go to a meeting to decide where I would be Monday morning, but if there was someone at the meeting who was unsure, our fight was well presented."

Brunson explained that he has been calling coworkers who have questions about the strike, discussing with them their doubts and hesitations. "What we're doing is not just for the UAW, or the coal miners, or the AFL-CIO," he said. "It's for everyone, including workers at nonunion plants."

Bill Harminson, a striker from Sullivan, Illinois, explained that the strike has not been easy for him financially. He had just paid \$2,000 in doctor's bills the month before the strike because his wife has multiple sclerosis and doctor's visits were not covered in Caterpillar's insurance. When the company made its back-to-work ultimatum he called together a family meeting with his wife and two sons to discuss their options. "I explained that we could lose the house, the car, everything we own. Those were our options, but crossing the picket line was not an option. They said they were behind me 100 percent."

He explained that his two sons had just started new jobs and were still on probation. "They told the boss they weren't going to be at work Monday morning," he said. "They were going to be on the picket line with their dad."

Andrea Gonzalez is a member of United Autoworkers Local 325 in St. Louis. Mary Zins is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union in St. Louis.

Mass strike pickets at Cat plants

Continued from front page

many attempts by immediate supervisors calling them at home to get them back to work. One striker said, "I just have my wife answer the phone and say I'm not home." Another striker explained that he enjoyed personally hanging up on his boss every time he called.

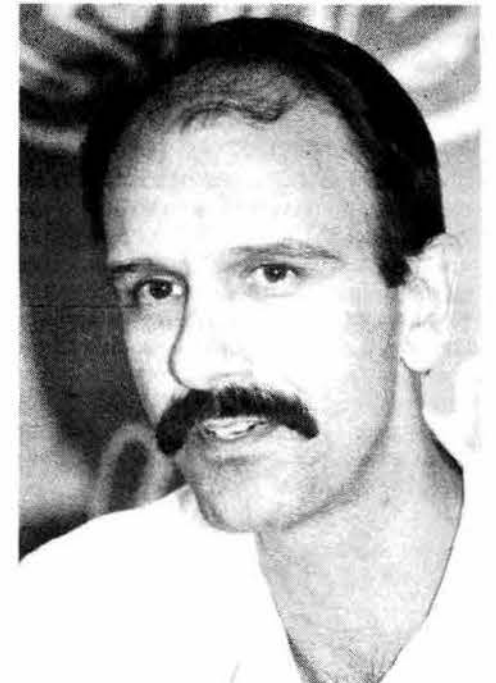
In an effort to intimidate the strikers the company stationed Vance Security thugs — dressed in dark uniforms, dark glasses, and combat boots — with video cameras on the roofs and around the grounds of the Caterpillar complex. To show their disgust for these union-busting goons, every now and then strikers would chant "jump" at the Vance guards up on the roofs.

Caterpillar's decision to try to break the strike has been getting attention and support from other corporations, particularly the auto bosses. The union-busting move has received major coverage in the business pages of the newspapers. An article in the April 2 *Wall Street Journal* pointed out, "In Detroit, officials of the Big Three auto makers say they are watching the developments closely. 'We're quietly cheering for Caterpillar,' a General Motors executive said yesterday."

Caterpillar has announced it will begin advertising for "replacement workers" April 7. Strikers on the picket line have vowed to keep their picket lines strong every day to confront any and all scabs.

David Rosenfeld, member of International

Association of Machinists Lodge 837-C, reported from Decatur for this article. Ernie Mailhot reported from East Peoria.



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Ernie Mailhot, former Eastern Airlines striker and director of trade union work for the Socialist Workers Party, has moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to help organize solidarity activities with the Caterpillar strike.

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Paid for by the Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign Committee

Socialist candidates confront Buchanan

Continued from front page

ers. His aim is to obscure the real source of the crisis confronting working people around the world — capitalism."

What Buchanan is saying today in the context of the first stages of a world depression, Warren continued, "is similar to what Hitler was saying in the 1920s when he began. He represents what the ruling rich have in store for working people and the logical fascist outcome of the bipartisan drive against us."

"He says in public what Bush, Clinton, and Brown say in private." That's why they can't offer an alternative, Warren explained.

Nisan, who participated in the Minnesota news conference with the SWP's presidential ticket, was asked by a WCCO-radio reporter what issues he would raise in his congressional campaign. He is running against Democratic incumbent Martin Sabo in a district that includes most of Minneapolis. Nisan, a prominent activist in the fight against police brutality in the Twin Cities and a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 15199, said, "Minnesota has its own home-grown Patrick Buchanan — Tom David. David, who heads the fascist-minded White Student Union represents the same thing," he said.

Nisan pointed to an article on Buchanan in the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune* last month where David was quoted as saying, "There's very little difference between Buchanan, [David] Duke and Tom David."

Campaign will mobilize youth

Nisan added that the SWP candidates would be running a "very aggressive campaign in the state" that would be oriented to "mobilizing as many youth as possible behind the campaign."

When Buchanan spoke to the state legislators he stressed themes he'd been sounding since his arrival in the state and throughout the country.

He said that there is only one road back to prosperity: "the freedom road." This, he stated, meant "lifting the cost of government off business — big and small — and returning those funds to the private sector."

Buchanan called for lifting all regulations on business and "indexing capital gains" so they could be adjusted upward for inflation. This proposal to aid big business sharply contrasted with Warren's call the same morning for protecting working people from inflation by including escalator clauses in all wage contracts and to provide more jobs by shortening the workweek with no reduction in pay.

The Republican demagogue referred to the National Endowment for the Arts as the "playpen for the arts and crafts auxiliary of the Eastern liberal establishment." The NEA, he said, fostered "filthy and blasphemous art, wounding traditional values. Our taxes shouldn't pay for this kind of garbage."

In response to the Bush administration's April 1 announcement that Washington would participate in a seven-country, \$24 billion fund program for Russia, Buchanan argued that this "amounts to a bailout for German banks." He reiterated his ultranation-

alist "America first" theme that he's been hammering away at since he announced his campaign last December. We "must be first on land, in the air, at sea, and in space," he told the some 150 legislators and staff members.

He also criticized President Bush for "waffling on the right to life. I've been proud that the Republican Party is a right-to-life party, and I want to keep it a right-to-life party in 1992."

Buchanan's speech was boycotted by most of the state's Independent-Republican (IR) legislators. (In Minnesota the IR is the official Republican affiliate.) Shortly before he spoke, they had a news conference announcing that all 77 of them had signed petitions endorsing Bush. While Buchanan was in the state he focused much of his fire on the state's Independent-Republican governor Arne Carlson and other IR officials. Their main response was to chastise him for creating "disunity" in Republican ranks and urged that he withdraw from the race.

Buchanan seeks protest vote

Buchanan is running TV ads urging Democrats to cross over in the state's April 7 primary election and to vote for him as a protest. He told the Minnesota Meeting, a public affairs forum, April 1 that he probably wouldn't win this election, but that he is running to "give Americans a vehicle of protest."

Buchanan spent more time campaigning in Minnesota than any other Democratic or Republican presidential candidate. He was unable to get on the ballot in the New York primary, also to be held April 7. Moreover, in Minnesota he will get delegates in proportion to his share of the vote, unlike in states where winner-take-all rules apply.

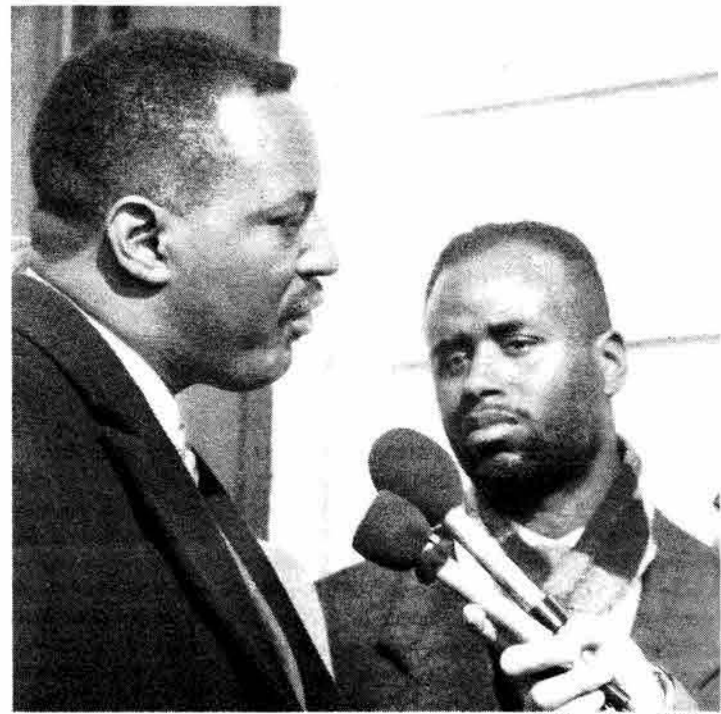
During Buchanan's speech at the capitol, the gallery to the House of Representatives chambers, which is normally open to the public, was closed to all but those vouched for by Buchanan's campaign staff. The speech, however, was piped into the capitol rotunda where 100 people listened. Among

them were young Bush supporters with placards urging support for Bush and Danforth Quayle and young antiracist and gay rights activists who chanted as Buchanan was leaving, "Racist, sexist, anti-queer, Pat Buchanan get out of here." Socialist Workers campaigners joined in the chants and distributed literature among the protesters.

That evening a reception was held at the SWP campaign headquarters for DeBates. A couple of young workers from the Long Prairie meat-packing plant in South St. Paul came and endorsed the campaign. Gerardo Sanchez, SWP candidate for state senate, works at Long Prairie and is an activist in the fight for a union contract there.

While in town Warren and DeBates participated in a quickly organized action April 1 to protest the United Nations Security Council's vote the day before to impose sanctions against Libya. Among the speakers was American Indian Movement leader Vernon Bellecourt. Warren, who also addressed the protesters, said, "The sanctions are an act of war."

The SWP candidate blasted the "bipartisan war drive," which all his Democratic and Republican opponents support. "And it's not only Libya, but Iraq and North Korea that are being threatened," Warren said. He told the demonstrators that he and DeBates will be traveling to North Korea later this month to extend solidarity to the



Militant/Jon Hillson
SWP candidates James Warren for president (left) and Chris Nisan for Congress answer Buchanan's demagoguery at press conference at Minnesota state capitol.

people of Korea.

That evening, along with supporters, they distributed campaign literature and talked to protesters at the Hyatt Hotel in Minneapolis where Buchanan briefly addressed a small group of his backers. Among the Buchananites were several skinheads from East St. Paul, where there have been cross-burnings against Black residents over the past couple of years.

The week's activities wound up with a street meeting on the corner of Lake Street and Blaisdell Avenue in Minneapolis where Nisan addressed scores of passersby and campaign workers distributed leaflets for an April 11 rally and sold copies of the *Militant*. Two students from the University of Minnesota and a friend came over to help.

Nisan, who is well-known as a fighter against racial discrimination and police brutality, was greeted with honks and waves by several people. Socialist Workers campaign director Marea Himelgrin said, "This was really fun. We reached a lot of people with the ideas of the campaign. We want to organize more street meetings like this one."

The media in the Twin Cities played down Buchanan's visit and coverage was buried deep in the newspapers. Both the *Star-Tribune* and WCCO-TV and radio wove in statements by Warren against the incipient fascist threat Buchanan represents with their coverage of the Republican candidate.

nant, having abortions. My generation must defend reproductive rights" she said.

Other speakers included actress Rita Moreno; United Farm Workers vice-president Dolores Huerta; Norma McCorvey, the "Jane Roe" of the *Roe v. Wade* court decision that legalized abortion; and leaders of local women's rights groups.

Socialist candidate joins fighters at pro-choice rally in San Francisco

BY JIM ALTENBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — Supporters of the California Socialist Workers election campaign joined the pro-choice March For Women's Lives here March 29, introducing hundreds of people to the socialist candidates and the *Militant* newspaper.

Georges Mehrabian, Socialist Workers candidate for California State Assembly from San Francisco met demonstrators at a large socialist campaign literature table at the rally. Mehrabian, a garment cutter and member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, later told the *Militant* that many of the young people who stopped were seriously looking for an explanation of the mess capitalist society is in and for some solutions. "I'd begin by explaining that my campaign sought to alert working people to the threat of a renewed U.S. war against Iraq, and against Libya and North Korea," he said. "Washington failed to achieve its aims in the Middle East despite the massive slaughter and destruction in Iraq and more than a year of vicious economic blockade of that country," Mehrabian said the explanation of this, as well as of the threat posed by the rightist campaign of Patrick Buchanan, led a number of people at the table to pursue further discussions.

Other socialist campaign supporters fanned out throughout the march and rally sites with small tables of socialist books, pamphlets and the *Militant*. As a result 43

people bought an issue and two subscribed to the paper.

At an open house in a nearby restaurant after the rally, Mehrabian again took up the issue of Buchananism. "Buchanan has targeted California for a major campaign," he said. "He'll find a wide audience here. His answers to the fears and problems people have are to blame immigrants, Jews, and Japan; to blame women for the so-called breakdown of the family, street crime, and drugs. None of the capitalist politicians answer him. In fact, both capitalist parties' policies have opened the way for Buchanan."

The Socialist Workers campaign answers Buchanan by explaining that the root causes of war and depression are the capitalist system itself, Mehrabian said. "We'll join fighters whenever and wherever they fight. We'll point toward solidarity and the need to take power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers. This is my only campaign promise."

Also running on the Socialist Workers ticket in California are its two candidates for U.S. Senate, Margaret Jayko, an auto worker and member of the United Auto Workers union, and Joel Britton, an oil refinery worker and member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union for California's two U.S. Senate seats. Mick Goldwater, an airport ramp worker and member of the International Association of Machinists is the SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in the 18th district.

'That's not the car!'

As Socialist Workers Party campaigners distributed campaign literature and talked to protesters against ultrarightist candidate Patrick Buchanan at the Hyatt Hotel in Minneapolis, socialist campaign supporter Garnez Parks parked his car outside the Hyatt front door to drop off James Warren and Estelle DeBates. While the SWP presidential and vice-presidential candidates went inside to participate in the protest, Parks waited at the wheel for them to return to the car.

He soon noticed two security men standing close to his car. Moments later the rear door opened and someone climbed in the back seat. Parks turned around and was stunned to see Buchanan in his car. "Er, excuse me" was all he could get out before a security man tugged at Buchanan's sleeve and said, "that's not the car!" Buchanan jumped out without a word.

The only explanation those at the event could come up with for Buchanan's strange behavior was that he must have seen Parks, who is Black, and assumed he was his chauffeur for the evening.

San Francisco: 25,000 march for women's right to abortion

BY JIM ALTENBERG

SAN FRANCISCO — Chants of "We won't go back!" and "Our bodies, our lives, our right to decide!" echoed off the buildings as thousands marched through downtown San Francisco March 29 to protest the continuing attacks on a woman's right to choose abortion. Some 25,000 people joined the March For Women's Lives, which was sponsored by the San Francisco Area Pro-Choice Coalition.

A large number of marchers were young women determined not to have to face the terror of back-alley, illegal abortions. Many were students who marched in contingents from University of California campuses of Berkeley, Santa Cruz, and Santa Barbara; as well as state and community colleges in San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland. Demonstrators carried banners from the National Organization for Women and Planned Parenthood chapters throughout California. Others represented civil liberties, gay rights, environmental, and political organizations. While some in the crowd talked about how they had to demonstrate to win abortion rights two decades ago, many other participants said this was the first protest action they had ever joined.

Abortion was legalized throughout the United States 19 years ago. Since then the government has chipped away at the right to choose. These attacks have hit poor and young women the hardest through cuts in public funds for clinics, denial of Medicaid payments for abortions, and laws requiring pregnant youth to obtain parental consent.

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, told the crowd that 44 million poor and rural women no longer have access to abortion, in this country.

Laura O'Grady, a leader of Defend Abortion Rights Emergency at San Francisco City College, explained the stakes for young women. "The U.S. government wants to criminalize abortion. Women will seek back-alley abortions. Parental consent laws kill. My generation is having sex, getting preg-

Tragic impact of crisis on British farmers

BY ANDY BUCHANAN

MANCHESTER, England — The number of suicides each year by farmers and farm workers in Britain has reached 300, according to an article in the *Guardian* newspaper.

A spokesperson for the National Farmers Union pointed out that although the union did not have specific figures for farm suicides, "farmers use shotguns and how they use them, if you want to look at accidents, depends on interpretation."

These tragic deaths are one side of a deep economic crisis facing many farmers in Britain. The crisis bears down most sharply on small and medium-sized farms. Small family sheep farms in the upland areas have been particularly hard hit by falling prices for farm products. Over the last three years wool prices have collapsed from \$1.72 to \$0.53 per kilo. Sheep farmer Stan Edmondson, from the upland Lake District, commented, "It's barely worth the labor to take the fleece off."

Many farmers find themselves trapped between rapidly rising costs and falling prices. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, farm incomes in 1991 fell by 14 percent to \$2 billion. Farm incomes hit a peak of \$3.4 billion in 1984. The fall in farm prices is underpinned by a dramatic collapse in land prices. These factors have combined to ensnare many farmers in crippling indebtedness. The Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) estimates that the total debt of farmers in Britain has risen, from \$1 billion in 1976 to \$21.7 today. Investment in new buildings and machinery is now at a post-war low.

On top of these crushing economic pressures, farm families face sharp cutbacks in social services. These blows fall most heavily on the more isolated areas where small farmers are concentrated. Government privatization of bus services, for example, has led to many "nonprofit-making" services being withdrawn. There have also been cutbacks in health and education services, which have been concentrated in larger towns at the expense of farming villages.

Many farmers have been forced off their farms. In 1991, 6,000 farmers left the land



Militant/Norton Sandler

A sheep farmer in Britain. In 1991, one out of 20 farmers either left the land or shifted to part-time farming.

and the number of those farming part-time rose by 4,000. The FUW estimates that the total farm labor force fell by 14,500 in the same period. *Farmers Weekly* reports a "sharp increase in [land] sales under financial pressure." The total number of farmers in Britain now stands at 178,000.

This economic situation is the result of a crisis of overproduction, or, that is, more foodstuffs are produced than the big capitalist farmers and food processors can sell at a profit. In Britain, for example, agricultural productivity rises by 3 percent each year. This overall increase in output led the European Community (EC) to move from being a net importer to a net exporter of grain over the decade of the 1980s. The European Community's Common Agricultural Policy helped to promote increased production and ensured the maintenance of farm prices by "intervention buying." Large quantities of farm products were bought up by intergovernmental agencies and either put into storage or "dumped" on the world market.

In August 1991 the *Independent* newspaper reported that the EC was currently hold-

ing 20 million tons of cereal, 750,000 tons of beef, and 900,000 tons of dairy products in storage. These vast stocks are often referred to as food "mountains" or wine "lakes." Milk prices are maintained by controlling production through output quotas. In the world of capitalist farming, these quotas rapidly became tradeable commodities in their own right. Accumulation of quotas by large dairy farmers increased their economic leverage over family farmers, who are often forced to sell their own quotas to meet debt repayments.

These EC policies have allowed agribusiness to skim off huge profits, forcing consumers throughout Europe to pay artificially inflated food prices and to bear the cost of intervention buying through taxation. Contrary to the belief of many working people, however, these policies have not benefited all farmers. The *Economist* magazine pointed in February 1991 to the "scandal" that "leads to four-fifths of EC farm support going to the richest one-fifth of its farmers."

This setup is today under increasing economic and political pressure. EC governments are looking for ways to cut back on the \$49 billion it costs to fund the Common Agricultural Policy. Costs of maintaining the food "mountains" and "lakes" are, to quote the *Independent*, "spiralling out of control." Moreover, conflict over trade in agricultural products is one of the sharpest expressions of the general heightening of economic tensions between the major imperialist countries. It is the issue that has continually surfaced to block the completion of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT).

U.S. negotiators, representing the interests of agribusiness, are responding to increased EC food output by driving to "liberalize" world trade. Supported by the Cairns Group of food-exporting countries, U.S. negotiators are demanding that the EC reduces domestic food subsidies by 75 percent and export subsidies by 90 percent.

Intensifying competition

The impact of this drive by the U.S. ruling class and its allies in the Cairns Group has exposed the fragile unity of the EC. Instead of more unity, it is clear that the intensification of economic competition will lead to the individual governments within the EC following policies in line with the interests of the ruling families of those countries, rather than the interest of some common "Europe." For example, the governments of Britain, the Netherlands, and Denmark are amenable to accommodation with the U.S. position in the GATT talks. With highly efficient agricultural sectors, these governments believe that large farmers in their countries could compete in a "liberalized" world market. Other European countries including Spain, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, and Greece aim to defend the current protectionist policies. In these countries smaller farm units, with lower labor productivity, tend to dominate.

Today the countries of the EC are being held together around a fragile compromise proposal advanced by EC agriculture commissioner Ray MacSharry. This plan envisages a 30 percent cut in domestic farm subsidies over the decade that started in 1986. In addition, MacSharry aims to cut production by reducing the area under cultivation. Farms of more than 50 hectares (123 acres) would have to reduce their cultivated area by 15 percent to qualify for compensation for the loss of income resulting from lower in-

tervention prices. Farms of less than 50 hectares would be fully compensated for land "set aside," or taken out of production. Very small holdings would be exempt from any set-aside.

This provision has led some to conclude that the MacSharry proposals are skewed in favor of the family farmer. The Farmers' Union of Wales issued a statement saying that MacSharry's proposals "represent the best chance of survival for the overwhelming majority of farmers in Wales." Wales has a large number of family farmers.

Andy Welford, a family farmer on the North York Moors and a leader of the Farmers World Network, explained in a telephone interview that while a majority of farmers in Britain opposed the MacSharry proposals, he thought "there are some positive aspects." In particular he said they favored small farmers. "Without MacSharry small farmers will face naked price pressure," Welford stated, "The outlook will very, very gloomy."

Basing itself on the interests of large farmers, the British government is continuing to campaign against the MacSharry proposals. Under the existing proposals, 54 percent of the land set aside by cereal farmers in Britain will not be compensated, as against an EC average of 27 percent. Taking the unprecedented step of addressing the conference of the National Farmers Union in February, Prime Minister John Major stated that the sooner British farmers weaned themselves off the subsidies the better their long term prospects would be.

No agreement in sight

Despite encouraging noises from senior officials, it is clear no resolution of these issues is in sight. The Uruguay Round of the GATT talks has passed deadline after deadline without agreement. Moreover, as the world economic crisis intensifies, the multiple economic conflicts that block a resolution to the crisis deepen. The lines of divide between the U.S. government and the Cairns Group on the one hand and the EC on the other, the divisions between the governments of the EC countries, and the class divisions between farmers in each country are all getting sharper.

Communist League candidates in the upcoming general election point out that none of the current proposals are a solution to the farm crisis. All start from the interests of different groups of exploiters, not from the needs of working people and family farmers.

The MacSharry plan, under the guise of supporting the small farmers, would lead family farmers to some variant of the protectionist plans of their capitalist governments and away from linking up with other working people facing the crisis of the capitalist system. It would lead to the continuation of artificially high food prices, the profit of big agribusiness food processors, and would tend to reinforce the obscurity of food "mountains" in storage while millions face starvation.

On the other hand the "liberalization" sought by the U.S. government and echoed by John Major would rapidly intensify the economic pressure on smaller, less efficient farm units and give a downward push to the depression conditions already faced by thousands of farmers.

However this deal is finally cut, it will not benefit workers or family farmers around the world. A policy that can unite workers and farmers would be based on:

- Immediate relief for farmers who face bankruptcy and loss of their land.
 - Guaranteeing farmers use of the land as long as they want to work it and produce goods for society.
 - A guaranteed market for the products of farmers' labor with an income adequate to meet their production costs and have a decent living. All schemes to curtail production in order to raise commodity prices should be banned. Farmers in Britain should be able to join with farmers around the world to produce the food that could feed the world and remove the capitalist scourge of hunger and malnourishment.
- These policies point in the direction of a fighting alliance of workers and farmers, not for or against various capitalist plans — be they "free trade" or "protectionist" — but against the capitalist system itself.

Andy Buchanan is a member of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and is the Communist League candidate for the Manchester Central Constituency.

Pathfinder

PATHFINDER AROUND THE WORLD

RICH STUART

Pathfinder, located in New York with distributors in Australia, Britain, and Canada, publishes the works of working-class and communist leaders who have made central contributions to the march of humanity against exploitation and oppression. Pathfinder bookstores are listed in the directory on page 12.

The February issue of the *Yorkshire Miner*, published by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in Britain, includes a review of the Pathfinder book, *How Far We Slaves Have Come!* by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro. Written by coal miner Jim Spaul of the Kellingley NUM, the review concludes, "Anyone wishing to bring an end to racism, apartheid and the exploitation of humanity would do well to read the book."

From the other side of the world, the *Evening Post*, a major daily newspaper in Wellington, New Zealand, in its March 7 issue features an article about the Wellington Pathfinder Bookshop. The article opens, "Snuggled in among the tuck shops and restaurants of Majoribanks Street, Mt Victoria, The Pathfinder Press book and pamphlet shop keeps revolutionary ideals alive in Wellington." The half-page article includes a photo of the shop and interviews with volunteers who staff it after working shifts in area factories.

The New Zealand daily also describes the Militant Labour Forum, held at the Pathfinder Bookshop, as "a meeting to discuss issues affecting the 'national liberation struggle' and labour movement."

The article concludes by quoting staffer Patrick Brown, "We will be around for a while... the system cannot carry on as it is. The time is right for these ideas."

One of Pathfinder's most effective contributions to the march of humanity continues to be the *Communist Manifesto*, by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. More than 500 copies of this powerful document were sold by Pathfinder-Britain in 1991. Sixty-five copies were sold in Sweden last year in Swedish, French, Spanish, and English.

Close to 300 copies of the *Communist Manifesto* were sold by Pathfinder to bookstores in South Africa last November.

Of the more than 3,000 copies of the *Manifesto* sold by Pathfinder last year, many are read by college students as part of their classes at schools across the United States. Already, in the first two months of 1992, 620 copies have been sold.

College students at the University of Cincinnati heard Betty Shabazz, the widow of Malcolm X, speak there as part of the school's Black History Month program. Shabazz told the 700 people at the meeting how important Pathfinder Press, the principal publisher of Malcolm X's writings, was to her. After the program, the Pathfinder literature table was swamped with people who bought books by Malcolm X and others, as well as postcards of Malcolm X and Nelson Mandela from the Pathfinder Mural in New York City.

The New York Public Library has selected *Malcolm X Talks To Young People*, published by Pathfinder in 1991, for the "1992 Books for the Teen Age." This is an annual booklist for young people age 12-18, distributed free to teenagers through the 82 branch libraries of the New York Public Library.

Turkish government launches military assault on Kurds

BY PAUL MAILHOT

Under the guise of a "battle against terrorism" the Turkish government of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has launched a major military assault to crush Kurdish protests in southeastern Turkey. The attacks began during demonstrations on the weekend of March 21 called to celebrate Newruz, a traditional Kurdish spring festival.

Many of the rallies turned into antigovernment protests and demonstrations of support for the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). At least 75 people have been reported killed, including many children.

The Kurds are an oppressed nationality in Turkey and have been struggling for democratic and national rights for decades. The Turkish government, headquartered in Ankara, has met every manifestation of Kurdish nationalism with fierce repression and has especially targeted the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). More than 3,400 people have been killed since 1984, the year the PKK began a guerrilla campaign for an independent state.

Kurds are an oppressed people

Some 12 million Kurds live in Turkey, about 20 percent of the population. Approximately half are concentrated in towns and

villages in the southeastern part of the country. Another 5 to 6 million Kurds live and work in Turkey's major cities.

The government's attacks on the Newruz demonstrations are part of a long-standing policy of repression against any efforts by the Kurdish people to assert their rights. Until recently even using the word "Kurd" was taboo and government authorities officially referred to the Kurdish population as mountain Turks. The Kurdish language was outlawed until April of last year. It still may not be used in broadcasts or to teach.

Military attacks on Kurdish towns and government-inspired assassination squads are frequently used to terrorize the Kurdish people. There have been more than 60 political assassinations of Kurds in the past year alone, with no investigation or arrests by Turkish police. During the same time the government has put on trial 1,200 Kurds for supporting the PKK.

One resident of Sirmak, standing in the remains of her home after the military assault on the Newruz protests, told a *New York Times* correspondent "Even animals should not have to live like this. We have no God here, only the police and the military."

In the eyes of Turkish officials the entire Kurdish population is the enemy. "We have



Kurdish demonstration in Cizre, in Turkish Kurdistan.

arrested a lot of young girls," said one police official in Sirmak, "because the terrorists use them to carry messages and ammunition. Nearly every family in this village has hidden a terrorist at one time or another." Police officers and troops are often stoned by crowds when they enter Kurdish towns.

While the government brands the PKK as terrorist, the organization enjoys much support among the Kurdish population. It is estimated that the PKK has a guerrilla force of some 3,000 in Turkey, with another 7,000 based in bordering countries. The People's Labor Party, closely allied with the PKK, has sent more than 20 elected deputies to the Turkish parliament.

A group of parliamentary deputies touring southeastern Turkey in early March entered one village where women displayed PKK banners and portraits of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the party. These are all illegal emblems in Turkey. The women were holding a rally to celebrate International Women's Day and sang songs in support of the PKK and the struggles of the Kurdish people. "Kurdish women are struggling alongside the men, proclaimed Husniye Olmez, a party official. "We must join hands and resist together. If we do this, no power can stop us."

The plight of the Kurdish people can no longer be hidden from the rest of the country as it has been in the past. The demonstrations and clashes with the government forces were broadcast over the national media. Millions of Kurds also now live and work in major cities such as Istanbul, Ankara, and Ismir. A report in the Paris newspaper *Le Monde* on March 30 explained, "The man on the street, for whom the question of the Kurds was abstract, limited to a region situated more than a thousand kilometers from Istanbul, was hit hard by the images transmitted for

the first time by national television. Tanks, bullets and demonstrations have surprised the majority of the population." According to the *Le Monde* reporter these images have caused a huge discussion in the country.

Crisis in German government

Ankara's repression of the Kurdish minority has received condemnation in many parts of the world. Television coverage of German tanks destroying Kurdish villages touched off a governmental crisis in Bonn. In reaction to strong public pressure the German government has halted all deliveries of military goods to the Turkish army. Defense Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, a prominent Christian Democrat, resigned on March 31, amid accusations that he was responsible for shipping the tanks despite a government ban. U.S. secretary of defense Dick Cheney had planned to meet with the defense minister that day to press for a change in German policy toward Turkey.

The Bush administration has come to the defense of the Demirel government. Turning the military assault on its head, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler denounced the PKK for "acts of terrorism" against Turkish soldiers.

Although Turkey is heavily dependent on its relations with Germany President Turgut Ozal likened Bonn's actions to the government's Nazi past. "It is as if it is trying to intervene in everything, interfere with everyone, trying to prove it's a great power. In the past Hitler's Germany did the same thing," he said. Trying to soften the denunciation somewhat he added, "But, of course, it did so in different ways."

Germany is Turkey's main trading partner and is considered its principal ally in Western Europe. The moves taken by the Bonn government reflect the presence of a large number of Kurdish workers who now live and are part of the political life of the country. About 400,000 of the estimated 1.6 million migrant Turkish workers living in Germany are Kurds. According to *New York Times* reporter John Tagliabue writing from Berlin on March 26, "Bonn appears to have been influenced by strong domestic sympathy for the Kurds. News organizations here have warmly embraced the cause of the Turkish Kurds."

The struggle of the Kurdish people has a big impact far beyond Turkey's borders. The area known as Kurdistan where most Kurds live is a part of five different countries. While nearly 12 million live in Turkey about 4 million live in Iran and another 4 million in Iraq. The remainder live in Syria and the former republics of the Soviet Union.

Progress toward an independent government by Kurds in Turkey could spur on the struggles of Kurds in these other countries where they also suffer national oppression. Iraq especially fears that advances by the Kurds in neighboring Turkey will inspire Kurds in northern Iraq to once again push their own struggle for independence.

Taking advantage of the Turkish strafing of Kurdish enclaves in northern Iraq, the Saddam Hussein regime began bombing a dozen small towns and villages in northern Iraq forcing some 40,000 Kurds to flee the area. One United Nations official reported "up to 300 heavy artillery shells a day in the area" are being dropped.



Turkish troops guard rebel supporters who were arrested after clashes

British police attack pro-Kurdish protest

BY MARTIN MARRIOTT

LONDON — A protest outside the Turkish embassy here March 24 ended in a brutal police riot which left more than 30 people injured, 9 hospitalized, and 17 arrested. The 400-strong demonstration by Kurdish workers and their families protested the wave of brutal repression being carried out by the Turkish armed forces against the Kurdish people.

Jane Hope, who witnessed events from her office window overlooking the embassy, reported how the police "started laying into them with their truncheons. It was totally unprovoked." Another office worker, Kathy Shut, saw that "a man lying on the floor was being kicked. He wasn't resisting . . . he was incapacitated."

One of those injured, Yasar Ercan, needed stitches on his upper lip. In an interview at the Kurdish Information Centre in North London the following day, he explained how "they hit everyone with their sticks, and they went for heads. One went mad and pushed a little girl onto the floor. I tried to help her up, and he hit me on the arm with his stick. Some police shouted 'Hit them' to encourage others to join in. Even when we didn't resist, they just carried on until we managed to get away."

Zeliha Onur, 10 years old, told her story: "I was in the middle and I was pushed to the floor. They hit me all over with their sticks. I said, 'You're not allowed to hit children

over here.' One started laughing. We were all bleeding everywhere. My mum and dad were both beaten, and my best friend. At the end, the police took me away to the Children's Hospital."

At the hospital, Zeliha's right arm was put in a sling due to a severely swollen and bruised right hand. She has bruises under her right eye, and on her body and legs.

Gunay Yildirim is 11 years old. Her legs are completely covered with bruises. She told how one of the police who beat her said, "Why aren't you at school?" She replied, "Because they are killing my people every day in Turkey." The cop continued beating her.

Later, she asked, "Why are you doing this to us?" A cop answered, "I do this for a living — it's my job."

Following the police attack, the Kurdistan Information Centre demanded an "immediate independent inquiry" into the police actions. The center accused the police of "acting in collaboration with the Turkish embassy and in a manner fitting of the notorious Turkish police themselves."

Ercan added, "It seems that wherever we are in the world they try to give us the same message — keep quiet and don't stand up for your rights."

Brian Grogan, Communist League parliamentary candidate for the Southwark and Bermondsey constituency in South London, issued a statement urging that "the labour

movement and all fighters for democratic rights condemn this vicious police assault. Less than a year ago, the Kurdish people were hailed as heroes for their resistance to the oppressive regime of Saddam Hussein. Now that the Kurds are opposing the Turkish regime — which is an ally of the British and U.S. governments in their continued threats against the Iraqi people — they are beaten down on the street."

Grogan linked the police riot with increasing attacks on immigrant workers. On the same day as the attack, a Conservative Party leader Douglas Hurd said in a widely publicized speech, "Mass immigration is one of the most serious problems facing Britain and Europe in the next decade."

Grogan responded, "As economic conditions get worse in Britain, right-wing forces — including those inside the police force — have targeted immigrant workers as the source of the problem. Blaming a section of workers turns attention away from the profit system and the economic crisis this system is responsible for. Working people must stand up and say 'No!' to racist and police brutality."

Martin Marriott is election campaign chairperson for the Communist League in Southwark and Bermondsey, London. He is a member of the RMT rail union at Waterloo Station, London.



Bomb attack by fascists on socialist group in Denmark

The Copenhagen headquarters of the socialist group Internationale Socialister (IS) was destroyed by a bomb March 16. The explosion took the life of 29-year-old Henrich Christensen. According to the magazine *International Viewpoint*, the attack was most likely the work of fascist groups that are in the forefront of a racist and anti-immigrant campaign in Denmark.

IS and other organizations involved in antiracist work have confronted numerous threats and physical attacks over the last four years. Lubni Elahi, an immigrant and socialist city councillor in Copenhagen, was assaulted by fascist thugs in the summer of 1990. The Nazi group "De Nationale" claimed responsibility but the police refused to press charges.

Backers of aborted coup mobilize in Venezuela

There are "significant forces in the military that are opposed to the government and appear willing to do away with the vices of what is known as democracy," said Venezuelan army division general Carlos Santiago Ramirez at a conference at the University of Carabobo at the end of March. "That is the meaning of the February 4 rebellion," he added, in reference to the military coup attempt against the government of Carlos Andrés Pérez.

On April 2 Venezuela's National Guard fired tear gas into a Roman Catholic cathedral in the capital city of Caracas and attacked 1,000 people demonstrating in support of the arrested coup plotters. Demonstrations also took place in Los Teques and Barquisimeto demanding the resignation of Pérez, the release of the arrested military officials, and the restoration of civil liberties suspended by the government following the coup.

Rightist Hyundai founder makes gains in South Korea elections

Chung Ju Yung, founder of the huge Hyundai conglomerate, received a strong showing in South Korea's parliamentary elections March 24. His rightist Unification National Party, which was recently formed, won 32 seats in Parliament after demagogic appeals to antigovernment resentment among the middle classes and layers of workers. President Roh Tae Woo's ruling Democratic Liberal Party suffered a setback, winning 148 of 299 seats, down from the 215 it previously held.

Israeli police killings spark protests by Palestinians in Gaza

Violent protests swept the Gaza Strip April 2 after the Israeli paramilitary border police killed four Palestinians and wounded dozens of others in the town of Rafa. Another 29 people were wounded and one woman was killed as the Israeli army opened fire on protesters. Palestinian youths burned tires, set up roadblocks, and engaged in street battles with the occupying army in the aftermath of the assaults. The Israeli army announced April 3 that 16 soldiers stationed in Rafa deserted their posts following the killings of the four Palestinians.

Civil war in Somalia claims the lives of 14,000

Two human rights groups, Africa Watch and Physicians for Human Rights, reported March 26 that the civil war in Somalia has claimed the lives of 14,000 people in the last four months. Another 27,000 people have been wounded and the capital, Mogadishu, has been largely devastated. Nearly 5 million people are threatened with starvation because of the strife and a spreading drought.

Algerian military gov't deepens attacks on democratic rights

More than two months after a January 11 coup halted parliamentary elections, the Algerian military-installed regime has announced plans to dissolve 400 elected local assemblies still controlled by the Islamic Salvation Front. The front, which won a majority in the first round of elections, has been banned by the government. At least 70 of its members have been killed in confrontations with the authorities and more than 9,000 of its followers have been detained.

Ultrarightist party in France makes gains in local elections

BY DEREK BRACEY

The National Front, an ultraright political party, made significant advances in recent local and regional elections in France. The elections showed a big loss of support for the ruling Socialist Party of French president François Mitterrand.

The March 22 elections were a setback for both of the most widely supported political parties in France, the Socialists and the conservative coalition called Union for French Democracy (UDF), whose vote totals dropped.

Days after the election, Mitterrand dismissed Edith Cresson from her post as prime minister, replacing her with Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy.

Even before she became prime minister, Cresson was known for her brash statements. She lashed out against Japan, saying that it "has the absolute objective of conquering the world." Cresson also expressed disappointment that France "doesn't wage global economic war," by using more protectionist measures, especially against Japan.

The National Front, which is led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, ran under the slogan, "France for the French." A central part of Le Pen's platform is his call for the expulsion of France's 3 million immigrants, with particular attacks on the 2 million immigrants who are Arab. He has also complained that Jews have too much power in France.

Le Pen has been getting a hearing from a broadening layer of French society that is becoming more frustrated with the social crisis and is willing to respond to Le Pen's scapegoating of immigrants and Jews. He has been able to appeal to middle-class layers and a section of workers who see immigra-

tion as a threat to their livelihood. In this election, this layer included some former Communist Party voters.

The Socialist Party received 18 percent of the vote, down from 30 percent in the last regional elections, held in 1986. The UDF garnered 33 percent, down from 40 percent.

The National Front collected almost 14 percent of the vote, up from 10 percent in 1986. The other significant increase was for two parties that focus on questions relating to protection of the environment, the Verts (Greens) and the Ecology Generation. They



Ultrarightist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen raises slogan 'France for the French.'

received a combined 14 percent of the vote. The Communist Party got less than 8 percent.

Neither the Socialist Party nor the UDF have been able to provide an effective answer to the National Front's program as they also try to use scapegoats to explain the high unemployment — which is nearly 10 percent — and other social problems.

The SP-led National Assembly passed legislation in October that placed more restrictions on the ability of immigrants to get work. This followed statements by several leading politicians attacking immigration.

Former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, a UDF leader, said France was facing "an invasion" of immigrants and called for restricting citizenship for children of immigrants. Former premier Jacques Chirac earlier spoke of an "overdose" of immigrants in France, complaining about "their noise and smell."

A controversy arose March 27 when two Socialist Party cabinet ministers won regional presidencies with the backing of the National Front. Jean-Pierre Soisson won in Burgundy, and Jean-Marie Rausch won the presidency in Lorraine.

The UDF, which made a pledge before the elections not to collaborate with the National Front, condemned the Socialist Party. Laurent Fabius, first secretary of the Socialist Party, proclaimed that "the Socialists do not and will not accept any National Front votes. Where there is any doubt," he added, "there should be a new vote to eliminate all doubts."

After Fabius's statement, Soisson quit his post as civil service minister. He said he preferred to leave the cabinet rather than abandon the Burgundy presidency.

U.S. rulers worry that funds to Russia won't restore capitalism or stability

BY SETH GALINSKY

"We're not talking about funny money. This is real money," insisted U.S. treasury secretary Nicholas Brady, when pressed by reporters to explain President George Bush's plan for a "new, comprehensive and integrated program" to back Russia.

Bush said that seven governments had agreed to a \$24 billion aid package for Russia, to be administered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The funds will help bring democracy, freedom, and stability to the former Soviet Union, he claimed.

Few reporters at Bush's April 1 press conference were convinced. Bush's friends and foes alike in U.S. ruling circles were also skeptical that the announced aid really adds up to \$24 billion over one year or that it will achieve their intended goals.

Bush in Washington, D.C., and German chancellor Helmut Kohl, a few hours earlier in Bonn, stated that the package had the support of the Group of Seven, which is made up of the leading capitalist governments: United States, Germany, Britain, Canada, France, Italy, and Japan. Some Japanese officials, however, said the announcement was "premature."

Skeptical reporters tried at least 10 times during Bush's press conference to obtain specifics on where the money was going to come from and how much of it really involved new outlays of funds, with little success. Even less information was forthcoming from the other governments that had agreed to participate.

Trying to explain the plan, Bush at one point contradicted himself in virtually the same breath.

"It's not a tremendous amount of money. Our commitment is very, very substantial," he stated.

Treasury Secretary Brady conceded that the U.S. contribution comes from "existing," "previously authorized," or "already committed" funds.

The breakdown of the aid package is as follows:

- \$6 billion to maintain the value of the ruble.
- \$4.5 billion in new loans from the

International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

- \$2.5 billion from deferring payments by Russia on loans made prior to Jan. 1, 1991. This does not affect the United States, which made no such loans. Germany is the leading lender.

- \$11 billion in loan guarantees and credits, mostly for the purchase of farm products. In the case of the United States this amounts to a huge handout to U.S. agribusiness and the grain corporations.

The whole package, including the new loans, comes with many strings attached. The IMF says Russia must meet stringent conditions for the funds to be released.

The IMF wants the Russian government to raise oil prices to world levels, implement other belt-tightening moves, and continue with privatization of state-owned enterprises.

Russian economy in a shambles

The *New York Times*, which favors the plan, admits it will not turn Russia "into a prosperous nation overnight." A headline in its April 2 issue succinctly explains Washington's hopes: "Buying time for Yeltsin." The announcement of the package came just five days before Russian president Boris Yeltsin was set to persuade "a hostile Russian Parliament to swallow some more free-market medicine," the paper reports.

The *Times* argues that the "aid package may make the crucial difference between unbearable misery and hard, but tolerable times."

The problem, the *Times* adds, is that "the Russian economy is in such a shambles that a stabilization fund may not work."

There are other drawbacks, the article says. Raising oil prices "would cause hardship for many Russian citizens" who are already "seething" over the procapitalist reforms.

The International Labor Organization released figures March 30 saying that unemployment in Russia would reach 11 million this year, from its current level of 3 million. The figure could soar to 30 million if the IMF oil price hike goes into effect and many state enterprises are allowed to go bankrupt.

A few days before the Bush-Kohl an-

nouncement, columnist Leslie Gelb warned against the "stampede toward a megabillion-dollar comprehensive 'aid' program."

According to Gelb, "Various forms of Western aid to the ex-Soviet states totaled about \$50 billion in the last 20 months, and the money has virtually disappeared without a trace or a dent on the economic picture."

In spite of this, he noted, wages have dropped so low that "some 90 percent of Russians now live below subsistence levels."

Because of the massive corruption in the economy of the former Soviet Union, "any cash given now," Gelb stated, "would simply vanish down a vast sinkhole."

Adding his voice to the general skepticism, *Wall Street Journal* editor Robert Bartley raised the "hard question when it comes to salvaging an economy wrecked by communism."

"To wit, do we know how to do it? Indeed, do we have a clue?"

Questioning the delivery of Russians "to the tender mercies of the experts at the IMF," he asked, "what economy has the IMF ever salvaged?"

The problem of attempting to restore capitalism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, Bartley said, is that "capitalism was not designed by a committee, but evolved over five centuries or so from a primordial soup of custom, morality and law."

"For all the talk of privatization" in Russia, the *Wall Street Journal* editor explained, "property rights" have not been clearly established.

To have capitalism you must have the right to buy and sell property, he explained. But that is still "in limbo."

Bartley gets at the heart of the problem faced by those who want to restore capitalism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

But he has no alternative to Bush's proposal.

"Would that we could offer more than some money, good wishes and the IMF," he concludes wistfully.

Half million rally for abortion rights

Continued from front page
Choice Act" on the other.

Some marchers carried homemade signs with a great variety of messages, such as "Keep your rosaries off my ovaries," "Abort the Supreme Court," or "You will never de-fetus!". A group of black-leather-clad young people sold T-shirts with the slogan: "U.S. out of my uterus."

Emily Anderson, 18, a student at the University of Rochester, held a banner that read: "Student coalition against Operation Rescue of Western New York." She explained that her group was building support for mobilizations to defend abortion clinics in Buffalo from blockades that Operation Rescue says it will begin April 20.

"Randall Terry [leader of Operation Rescue] is coming on Good Friday," she said. "We are mobilizing to stop him and his group. We have had a good response, but we can always use more people." Seven busloads of people came from Rochester for the march, Anderson said. Abortion rights supporters have called rallies in Buffalo for April 11 and 25.

"We are here to support women's rights," said Luz, who along with two other women carried signs made by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU). "About 80 of us came from garment factories in New York," she explained in Spanish. The women from the ILGWU and some small contingents of the National Education Association were among the few organized trade union groups that were visible at the demonstra-

tion. Overall participation by Blacks and Latinos in the march was low.

Focus on elections

The central goal of the organizers, projected through speakers at the assembly and the end of the march, was to point people toward electing "pro-choice" Democratic or Republican candidates and to lobby for passage of the Freedom of Choice Act. Arguing that *Roe v. Wade* is virtually dead, speakers from NOW, NARAL, the American Civil Liberties Union, and others said passing that bill or a constitutional amendment was the way to guarantee abortion rights.

"I know what you have done to show strength for our cause," said Senator Alan Cranston, California Democrat and principal sponsor of the Freedom of Choice Act. "When you go home you have to work politically for pro-choice people." Dozens of Democratic Party politicians, and a few Republicans, spoke on the platform.

"We are going to recruit women like Carol



Militant/Irene Sosa

Part of the crowd that filled the Mall near the Capitol in Washington, D.C., on April 5.

Moseley Braun to run in elections all over the country," Patricia Ireland, president of NOW, told the rally, referring to the Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate.

"The reality is that we are tired of begging men in power for our rights," Ireland continued. "We expect the Reagan-Bush Supreme Court to overturn the constitutional protection to the fundamental right to abortion this spring," she said.

"We must push Congress to enact legislation to protect our rights. And if Congress is unable or unwilling to enact the Freedom of Choice Act then we have the strength and determination to replace them and elect pro-

choice women," she stated. "We are going to have 50 percent women in Congress instead of 5 percent."

Among the speakers who received a standing ovation from the audience was Susan Wicklund, a medical doctor from Minnesota who has been traveling to rural areas in the Midwest to provide abortions. She has come under threats and physical attacks by thugs from Operation Rescue and the Lambs of Christ, another antiabortion group. "They firebomb the clinics but we are still working," she said, to cheers. "It's up to you to keep abortion legal. It's up to people like me

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Militant/Irene Sosa

James Warren (center) and Estelle DeBates (right), Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, campaigning at the April 5 March for Women's Lives demonstration in Washington, D.C. Some 250 people attended an open house to meet the candidates after the action.

Fighting perspective of the 'Militant' attracts many at April 5 demonstration

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"Read the paper campaigning for the socialist alternative in 1992," *Militant* distributors explained to thousands of people attending the April 5 March for Women's Lives in Washington, D.C. According to initial reports arriving in the business office, more than 140 subscriptions and hundreds of copies of the paper were sold to rally participants.

Many young people expressed interest in the feature article contained in the paper's "International Socialist Review" section analyzing Buchananism and explaining the socialist campaign's perspective on how to answer this rightist threat.

Alita Baclemens, a student from New York City who bought a copy, said: "I don't care what anybody says here — I don't like any of the Democratic or Republican candidates. This paper sounds interesting."

Another student who decided to subscribe to the *Militant* carried a sign that read "Bush, Duke, and 'Buke' — they all make me puke."

Militant distributors report that many activists were keen to read the paper's news about the confrontation brewing in Buffalo,

New York, where Operation Rescue has vowed to shut the abortion clinics in April. The *Militant's* fighting perspective explaining the need to answer and countermobilize against the rightists' street actions was also welcomed by many attending the abortion rights rally.

These initial reports show that the campaign effort carried out with the *Militant* at the April 5 demonstration helped launch the 10-week international circulation drive in the right way.

Next week's issue will include a fuller report on total sales at the April 5 event. *Militant* supporters should phone or fax the business office with this information by the scoreboard reporting deadline of 12:00 noon on Friday, April 10.

Printed on this page are the goals adopted by *Militant* distributors in the United States and nine other countries. These initial goals fall a few hundred short of the drive's overall goal of winning 6,000 new readers by June 13. As the drive gets under way, distributors are encouraged to reevaluate their goals and consider raising them as part of achieving the overall target.

Sales Drive Goals April 4-June 13

	<i>The Militant</i>	<i>Perspectiva Mundial</i>	<i>L'Internationale</i>	<i>New International</i>	Total
UNITED STATES					
Atlanta	90	8	2	30	130
Baltimore	120	12	5	40	177
Birmingham	80	5	2	40	127
Boston	135	40	15	50	240
Chicago	150	35	5	70	260
Cleveland	90	10	2	20	122
Des Moines	130	25	2	40	197
Detroit	140	10	2	30	182
Greensboro	80	8	2	15	105
Houston	80	20	2	20	122
Los Angeles	180	100	4	110	394
Miami	110	30	15	45	200
Morgantown	80	3	2	30	115
New Haven	10	2		3	15
New York	250	100	20	110	480
Newark	160	50	12	70	292
Philadelphia	85	20	3	30	138
Pittsburgh	90	5	2	30	127
Salt Lake	130	20	2	30	182
San Francisco	150	50	8	70	278
Seattle	120	35	3	25	183
St. Louis	100	5	2	25	132
Twin Cities	140	20	2	30	192
Washington D.C.	130	20	10	55	215
Cincinnati	20				20
U.S. Totals	2850	633	124	1018	4625
AUSTRALIA	45	14	1	10	70
BRITAIN					
London	80	6	2	40	128
Manchester	50	2	1	30	83
Sheffield	50	3	2	25	80
Britain total	180	11	5	95	291
CANADA					
Montreal	65	20	40	50	175
Toronto	90	20	5	45	160
Vancouver	75	15	3	25	118
Canada total	230	55	48	120	453
FRANCE	5	2	15	5	27
ICELAND	20	1	1	5	27
MEXICO					
NEW ZEALAND					
Auckland	60	5	1	15	81
Christchurch	40	1	1	10	52
Wellington	40	1	1	10	52
N. Zealand totals	140	7	3	35	185
PUERTO RICO	1	5		2	8
SWEDEN	55	30	10	3	98
Totals	3526	763	207	1293	5784
DRIVE GOALS	3600	750	200	1450	6000

The Militant Labor Forum is a weekly free-speech meeting for workers, farmers, youth, and others. All those seeking to advance the fight against injustice and exploitation are welcome to attend and participate in these discussions on issues of importance to working people.

At the Militant Labor Forum you can express your opinion, listen to the views of fellow fighters, and exchange ideas on how best to advance the interests of workers and farmers the world over.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

The Fight for Abortion Rights: A Report Back from the April 5 March for Women's Lives. Speakers: Julie Schollenburger, coordinator of Clinic Defense Alliance; Virginia Garza, healthcare worker at a community clinic; John Evenhuis, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

The U.S. Drive toward War against Libya, Iraq, and North Korea. Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (213) 380-9460.

San Francisco

"Japan Bashing." What Are the Stakes for U.S. and Japanese Workers as the Economic and Social Crisis Deepen in Both Countries? Speaker: Joel Britton, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-547. Just returned from a visit to Japan. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Tel: (415) 282-6255.

FLORIDA

Miami

Buchananism: What Is It? How to Fight It? The Socialist Answer in 1992. Speaker: Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate, member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 3-681. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (305) 756-1020.

Canadian fishermen protest European fleet

Continued from Page 16

lie in international waters, European countries, principally Spain and Portugal, took 47,000 tons of cod in 1991. That is an increase from 21,000 tons in 1990. European officials insist the actual catch by European countries for 1991 was only 26,000.

The European Economic Community has set a 1992 cod quota in these waters of 26,000 tons.

In Canada, the seeds of the current crisis were sown in 1977 when the country took control over a 200-mile territory off its coasts following an international agreement among maritime countries.

This gave Canadian capitalists a monopoly of control over the fish within these waters. Their investments expanded massively and the number of fish processing plants rose from 500 to 900 between 1977 and 1988.

Now these same capitalists are trying to pin all the blame on their European competitors. Their aim is to deflect the anger of fishermen and fish processing workers who have waged important struggles in recent years against the Canadian companies and government.

Scientists, including those employed by the federal government itself, and fishermen have warned for years that overfishing fueled by corporate greed is responsible for the decline of fish stocks.

At the same time, inshore fishermen have spoken out against the excessive catches taken by the large "factory" trawlers used by Canadian and European companies. They continue to protest the growing proportion of the Canadian fish quotas being given to the large Canadian companies at the expense of the inshore fishery.

A report in the March 28 Halifax *Daily News*, commenting on the departure the following day from St John's of the protest flotilla against European boats, noted that while many politicians and environmentalists there support the protest, "some fishermen say the demonstration obscures Ottawa's own role in mismanaging stocks under its control over the years."

Roger Anis is a member of Canadian Auto Workers Local 1900 in Montreal.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

U.S. Prepares New Wars: Threats against North Korea, Iraq, Libya are Prowar Propaganda. A panel discussion. Sat., April 11, 7 p.m. 545 W Roosevelt Rd. Donation: \$4. Tel: (312) 829-6815.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Defend a Woman's Right to Abortion! Speaker: Traci Castro, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

Support the Caterpillar Strikers. Speakers: A panel of unionists. Sat., April 25, 7:30 p.m. 2905 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (410) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Escalation of U.S. War Drive Targets Iraq, Libya, and North Korea. Speaker: Russell Davis, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 780 Tremont St. Donation: \$3. Tel: (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Women and the Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Elizabeth Kealy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 14th district, visited Cuba in spring 1991. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (313) 831-1177.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Buchananism — What It Is and How To Fight It. The Socialist Answer in 1992. Speaker: Chris Nisan, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 5th C.D. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$5. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

Half million rally for abortion rights

Continued from Page 11
to keep providing them."

Other speakers included Jesse Jackson and Bill Bell, Jr., brother of Becky Bell, a 17-year-old Indianapolis woman who died of an illegal abortion. Small antiabortion groups held counterdemonstrations at the Mall, but their shouts were drowned by the throngs of abortion rights supporters.

Democratic presidential candidates Edmund Brown and William Clinton, as well as Paul Tsongas, who has dropped from the race, campaigned during the march. A few hundred signs in support of Brown and Clinton were visible among the crowd. Most of the few dozen participants these reporters spoke to were not happy with any of the Democratic or Republican presidential contenders.

"I'll vote for who I hate the least, that's Jerry Brown," said Ann Bowen from Johnson, Vermont. "I don't like any of the candidates," said Allison Walkowski, a

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

Cuba 1992: Meeting the Challenges Confronting the Revolution. Speaker: Mary-Alice Waters, Socialist Workers Party National Committee, and editor of *New Internationalist*. Sat., April 18, 7:30 p.m. 1906 South St. Donation \$5. Tel: (215) 546-8218.

Pittsburgh

The Roots of Women's Oppression. Speaker: Matilde Zimmerman, Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 12, 7 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. Tel: (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Speakout Against Castration: State Terror & Racism. Speakers: J. Don Boney, chair, National Black United Front; Willie M. Reid, Socialist Workers Party and member, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

The Fight for Abortion Rights. A panel discussion and slide presentation on April 5 March for Women's Lives. Sat., April 25, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$3. Tel: (713) 522-8054.

WASHINGTON

Seattle

Cosmetics, Fashions, and the Exploitation of Women: The Dangers of Silicone Breast Implants and Capitalist Profiteering. Speaker: Anna Schell, Washington State Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign Committee. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 1405 E Madison. Donation: \$3. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

BRITAIN

London

Hands Off Libya — Stop War Moves by Britain and Other Imperialist Powers. Speaker:

student at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. "What we do here is what counts."

James Warren and Estelle DeBates, Socialist Workers Party candidates for U.S. president and vice-president, also took part in the march. A group of high school students from Buffalo, New York, who had received a leaflet about the socialist campaign approached DeBates. "This is really great. You are a serious pro-choice person," one of the students told her. The students asked the socialist candidate if her campaign would help them to mobilize people against Operation Rescue. "Myself, Warren, and our supporters are already organizing young people and others to go to Buffalo next weekend," DeBates said.

The high school students gave DeBates a button, which she wore for the rest of the day. It read: "Stop Operation Rescue. Boot'em out of Buffalo '92."

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UTAH: Salt Lake City: 147 E 900 South. Zip: 84111. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 523 8th St. SE. Zip: 20003. Tel: (202) 547-7557.

WASHINGTON: Seattle: 1405 E. Madison. Zip: 98122. Tel: (206) 323-1755.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: 242 Walnut. Mailing address: P.O. Box 203. Zip: 26507. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: 19 Terry St., Surry Hills, Sydney NSW 2010. Tel: 02-281-3297.

Pamela Holmes, Communist League. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £2. Tel: 71-928-7993.

Sheffield

The Rise of Rightist Forces in the USA — A U.S. Trade Unionist Speaks Out. Speaker: woman miner from the United Mine Workers of America and member of U.S. Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 11, 6 p.m. 1 Gower St., Spital Hill. Donation: £1. Tel: 0742-765070.

CANADA

Toronto

Police Violence: What Causes It? How Can We Stop It? Speakers: Dudley Laws, leader of Black Action Defense Committee; representative of York Coalition Against Discrimination; and Colin McKay, Young Socialists. 827 Bloor St. West. Donation: \$4. Tel: (416) 533-4324.

Vancouver

Defend Abortion Rights. A panel discussion. Sat., April 11, 7:30 p.m. 3967 Main St., Donation: \$4. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

U.S. Prepares New Wars. Speaker: Ottó Másson, Internationalist Forums. Sat., April 11, 1 p.m. Klapparstígur 26. 2nd floor. Tel: (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

South Africa: The Meaning of the Referendum. Speaker: representative of Communist League. Sat., April 11, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd., Donation: \$3. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Wellington

Communist League Convention and Socialist Educational Conference. April 18–19. For further information phone Auckland (9) 793-075, Christchurch (3) 656-055, or Wellington (4) 384-4205

SWEDEN

Stockholm

10,000 On Strike At Caterpillar. Speaker: Erike Dahlrot, autoworker at Saab-Scania. Sat., April 18, 3 p.m. Vikingagatan 10 (T-bana St Eriksplan). Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

The socialist answer to war, racism, and depression

Hear James Warren Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. president

Auckland: Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m. La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Rd. Donation: \$5. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Christchurch: Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m. 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Donation: \$5. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington: Rally to celebrate and raise funds for the *Militant* newspaper. Sunday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. Tararua Tramping Club hall, Moncrieff St. (off Elizabeth St.), Mt. Victoria. Donation: \$5. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

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Manchester: Unit 4, 60 Shudehill. Postal code: M4 4AA. Tel: 061-839 1766.

Sheffield: 1 Gower St., Spital Hill, Postal code: S47HA. Tel: 0742-765070.

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Toronto: 827 Bloor St. West. Postal code: M6G 1M1. Tel: (416) 533-4324

Vancouver: 3967 Main St. Postal code: V5V 3P3. Tel: (604) 872-8343.

ICELAND

Reykjavik: Klapparstíg 26. Mailing address: P. Box 233, 121 Reykjavik. Tel: (91) 17513.

MEXICO

Mexico City: Nevin Siders, Apdo. Postal 27-575, Col. Roma Sur. Mexico DF.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: La Gonda Arcade, 203 Karangahape Road. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3025. Tel: (9) 793-075.

Christchurch: 593a Colombo St. (upstairs). Postal address: P.O. Box 22-530. Tel: (3) 656-055.

Wellington: 23 Majoribanks St., Courtenay Pl. Postal address: P.O. Box 9092. Tel: (4) 384-4205.

SWEDEN

Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

What price sexism? — "Women are 70 percent more likely to spend their retirement in poverty than men, according to newly released data from the General Accounting Office. More than half of the elderly women living alone survive on incomes amounting to



Harry Ring

\$9,400 or less." — news item.

Medical industry insurance — In 1961, before Medicare, U.S. households headed by someone over 65 spent, on average, \$347 a year in out-of-pocket medical costs, including hospital and doctors' bills and insurance premiums. Last year it was \$3,305. Adjusted for inflation, that's double the 1961 cost.

Gangbusters — In Salt Lake City an attorney was pulled over for an expired registration. When she told the cop she needed to go inside the building and say she'd be late for an appointment, he grabbed her

arm and threatened arrest. When she persisted he called for backups. Four patrol cars hit the scene, remaining there until the 95-pound woman was ticketed.

Take advantage — The cost of living increased by an asserted 3.1 percent last year. But luxury goods were up only 1.8 percent, with a number of items holding steady. A Rolex Oyster was still \$13,750 and you could still snap up a Rolls Royce Corniche III at the previous year's price of \$226,700.

Junk-mail kings — Last year, members of Congress sent out \$44.7

million worth of taxpayer-financed mail to their constituents.

Shop early for Xmas — These items may not be around later in the year. From San Francisco jeweler Sidney Mobell: a gold-and-silver chess set, \$2 million. If that's too pricey, a gold Monopoly set, \$1 million. And for the family blue-blood, a gold toilet seat with a gem-encrusted crown on the lid, \$400,000.

Dicey occupation — *Financial World* bounced Graef Crystal, whose column about overpaid corporate executives didn't appeal to the magazine's executive reader-

ship. Earlier, Graef had to quit writing for *Fortune* when the editors leaned on him to rewrite his conclusion that executives at Time Warner were overpaid. *Fortune* is owned by Time Warner.

Great Society Collective — We're pleased to report that, on average, about half the items in this column are now based on contributions from readers — in the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and more. Don't forget, when feasible, send items care of Pathfinder Books, 2546 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006.

Congress debates tightening embargo of Cuba

BY MARTÍN KOPPEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congress is debating a bill to tighten the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba. The bill, sponsored by Democratic congressman Robert Torricelli, would prohibit subsidiaries of U.S. companies abroad from doing business with Cuba. It would also impose sanctions on other countries that trade with Cuba.

Other provisions of the bill, labeled the "Cuban Democracy Act of 1992," would prohibit any ship that trades at a Cuban port from trading at a U.S. port for six months; limit remittances from Cuban-Americans intended to allow relatives in Cuba to travel to the United States; and authorize open U.S. government funding of Cuban counterrevolutionary groups.

To sugarcoat the measure, the sponsors threw in a provision to upgrade telephone

ber of recent steps to tighten its embargo against Cuba. The Bush administration, however, has expressed opposition to certain aspects of the Torricelli bill and its Senate counterpart, known as the Mack Amendment after its sponsor, Republican senator Connie Mack.

A State Department spokesperson said in a phone interview that the administration, although "sympathetic to the aim of the bill," opposes the proposed sanctions against countries that trade with Cuba. Such sanctions would affect Britain, Canada, Mexico, and other Latin American countries.

The British and Canadian governments have objected vocally to the bill. So have U.S. corporations like the grain monopoly Cargill, which has profits from trade with Cuba through its European subsidiaries. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, licensed trade between Cuba and subsidiaries of U.S. companies totaled \$705 million in 1990, double what it was two years earlier. The bulk of this trade was in wheat, rice, and other staples.

The proposed legislation has fueled a debate in the Cuban-American community. Growing numbers of Cubans living in the United States oppose the embargo on Cuba and favor moves toward normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations.

Rightist forces such as the Cuban American National Foundation, headed by businessman Jorge Mas Canosa, are aggressively campaigning for the Torricelli bill. Mas Canosa testified in favor of the bill at hearings of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that began March 18.

Mas Canosa publicly attacked the *Miami Herald* as a tool of Fidel Castro after it published a January 18 editorial that was critical of the bill. Shortly afterward the *Herald* received a bomb threat and its publisher and two top editors received an unsigned death threat. *Herald* vending machines have been vandalized with feces and glue, and some newspaper distributors have been intimidated and called communists.

'Economic war against Cuban people'

Ramón Cernuda, who represents some of the exile forces in Miami that favor a dialogue with the Cuban government, testified against the Torricelli bill at the House subcommittee hearings March 25. He called the measure "a virtual declaration of economic war against the Cuban people." While making it clear that he is an opponent of the revolutionary government, he added, "To starve my people to death in the name of human rights, in the name of democratic ideals — this we cannot accept."

Noting his support for the provisions of the bill that would allow telephone and direct mail service to Cuba, Cernuda called for the U.S. government to loosen the trade embargo against Cuba and enter into talks with Havana "to negotiate the rest" of the embargo.

Also testifying at the hearings was Alfredo Durán, former chairman of the Florida Democratic Party. He focused his opposition on a section of the bill called "Policy toward a transitional Cuban government," which stipulates a series of demands for the establishment of a pro-U.S. government to replace what Torricelli called "the Castro dictatorship."

Under these stipulations, the trade embargo would remain and recognition and aid would be withheld until the Cuban government committed itself to hold elections within six months "under interna-

tional supervision" and began a "transition to a viable economic system," as defined by Washington.

Durán warned that such demands "could be interpreted as a new Platt Amendment" by the Cuban people, "who would find this concept intolerable." He noted that "here we have the Congress of the United States trying to determine what will be politically correct for a post-Castro Cuba. It would seem to be holding a hammer over the head of a transitional government." The notorious Platt Amendment, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1901 and imposed on Cuba's constitution, guaranteed Washington the "right" to intervene in Cuba at any time.

Growing debate in Cuban community

In a telephone interview from Miami, Andrés Gómez, national coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, called the U.S. embargo and the proposals to tighten it "a criminal measure against the Cuban people." He demanded that it be lifted immediately. The Antonio Maceo Brigade is an organization of young Cubans living in the United States who oppose the embargo and favor normalization of relations with Cuba.

Gómez explained that "there has been a dramatic drop-off in support for the blockade among the Cuban community here." He pointed to polls indicating that whereas only 33 percent favored lifting the embargo a year ago, the proportion had increased to 44 percent two months ago. In addition, he said, "the majority of those Cubans who left the island more recently — in the 1980s — favor lifting the blockade. A growing sector of our community is made up of recent immigrants."

According to a Florida International University survey conducted last October, two out of three Cubans living in Florida's Dade County now favor a U.S. dialogue with Cuba.

Gómez explained that he also works with

the Association of Workers in the Community (ATC), another organization of Cubans who favor normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations. This group has been growing rapidly in the last several months, particularly among young Cubans and recent immigrants.

The ATC has been carrying out a petition campaign in the Miami area calling on the U.S. government to improve relations with Cuba. "We've already collected 20,000 signatures," Gómez explained. The petition specifies allowing the sending of medicines, food, and other humanitarian aid, and freer travel and communications to Cuba.

"We plan to go to Washington, D.C., on April 7 to hold a press conference and hand these petitions to the government," he added.



Militant/Arthur Hughes
Andrés Gómez, national coordinator of the Antonio Maceo Brigade.

communications and direct mail service between the two countries.

The bill's aim is to increase the squeeze on the Cuban people as they experience greater economic hardships due to the collapse in trade with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. For three decades the U.S. government has imposed a ruthless economic embargo — barring everything from medicines to spare parts — in an attempt to undermine the Cuban revolution.

U.S. moves against Cuba

The debate in Congress takes place as Washington escalates its aggressive moves against Cuba. Last December three Cuban exile terrorists, trained in Florida camps with the U.S. government's knowledge, were arrested shortly after they landed in Cuba armed with weapons and explosives. Found guilty of sabotage and terrorism, one infiltrator was executed and the other two were sentenced to 30 years in prison.

In early March Washington orchestrated an intense campaign against Cuba in the United Nations that led to the UN Human Rights Commission voting for the first time to censure Cuba for claimed human rights violations.

The U.S. government has taken a num-

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Letter to 1992 socialist campaign supporters

The following is the text of an April 3 letter to supporters of the Socialist Workers 1992 election campaign by national campaign director Greg McCartan.

Dear supporters and campaigners,

The New York unit of the Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign has agreed to take on the responsibilities of organizing and running the national election campaign headquarters. As they move out to build a movement of young people, co-workers, and others who campaign for the socialist alternative in 1992 — like campaign activists around the country — they will also organize responding to inquiries, setting up national tours of the candidates, organizing the campaign finances, responding to media opportunities, and making proposals to the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party on the endorsement of candidates.

In addition, campaign supporters in the Washington, D.C., area — who hosted the socialist campaign open house at the April 5 demonstration to defend abortion rights and who organized the national press conference last week that kicked off the socialist campaign — have assumed the responsibility for sending out regular national campaign press statements.

Starting this week all communications on election campaign-related matters, including proposed candidates and slates requesting the endorsement of the SWP, should be sent to: Socialist Workers 1992 National Campaign, 191 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10011; tel.: (212) 675-6740; fax: (212) 727-8422.

Proposals for national press statements, requests to receive copies of statements, and related correspondence, should be sent to: Socialist Workers 1992 Campaign Press Office, 523 8th Street SE, Washington, DC 20003; tel.: (202) 547-7557; fax: (202) 547-7550.

Newspaper coverage of the socialist campaign from around the country and reports and materials on campaign activities should continue to be sent to the *Militant* newspaper — the voice of the socialist alternative in 1992. The *Militant* covers all the activities of socialist campaigners from building support for the Caterpillar strike, to participating in abortion rights actions, to protesting cop violence — as well as campaign rallies, meetings, and media events. Notes, articles, and clippings on these activities help the *Militant* prepare its weekly coverage.

Stop war threats against Libya

On April 15, 1986, U.S. bombers streaked across the sky over Tripoli and dropped their deadly cargo. The U.S. forces killed 37 people, including the daughter of Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi, and wounded 100 more.

Six years later, in an ominous warning, the United Nations Security Council has set the exact same date, April 15, as the deadline for Libya to bow to U.S., British, and French dictates or face economic and diplomatic sanctions. Washington, with UN cover, is preparing to go to war.

Using the same pretext it used in 1986, the U.S. government claims Libya is responsible for state terrorism. But what moral standing do Washington and its allies in London and Paris have for condemning Libya? And on what basis do they demand the extradition of citizens of another country?

A list of the examples of state-organized terrorism by the imperialist ruling classes around the world would fill not just this newspaper but a whole book.

To name just a few: the occupation of Viet Nam by France and later by the United States; the CIA's Operation Phoenix, which organized the assassination of 20,000 Vietnamese peasants; the burying alive of thousands of Iraqi soldiers in their trenches by U.S. forces last year; the right-wing death squads in El Salvador; the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989.

Early on in the investigation of the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Scotland, Washington accused Syria of being the perpetrator. Now, Washington chooses to direct its fire against Libya.

The shifts by the "investigators" from one to another suspect regime, against which Washington then makes its provocative and hostile demands, is based on what regime Washington politically favors or rejects. The latest threats

against Libya have nothing to do with a fight against terrorism. The real motives were laid out clearly in an internal Pentagon report obtained by the *New York Times* last month. There the warmakers state up front that their goal is to prevent competitors or rivals to U.S. power from developing and to be able to take on any government elsewhere in the world that crosses their path.

Washington had hoped to reassemble against Libya the coalition it created for the war against Iraq. But regardless of the destruction the United States and its allies wreaked on Iraq, Washington is in a weaker position today than it was a year ago.

Egypt and Syria, both of whose governments backed the slaughter against Iraq, have said they oppose both the sanctions against Libya and a renewed attack on Iraq. The Security Council passed the sanctions resolution by a smaller margin than its anti-Iraq resolutions leading up to the Gulf War.

Germany and Japan, which are not on the Security Council, have kept silent over the Libyan question. But it was significant that in the negotiations over the types of sanctions to apply against Libya, Washington agreed to exclude oil. Japan and Germany together depend on Libya for about 20 percent of their oil imports.

But U.S. imperialism's weakness does not diminish the threat of war. On the contrary, Washington seeks to provoke war — with Libya, with Iraq, and with North Korea in an attempt in part to reverse its decline. Other countries can expect to be put on the list further down the road.

Working people and youth should take the latest war moves seriously and organize against them.

Stop the war threats against Libya, Iraq, and Korea!
No sanctions on Libya! End the embargo of Iraq!

Launch strike solidarity campaign!

Continued from front page

ment run up against strikes, protests against police brutality, rallies to defend abortion rights, and other forms of resistance to their assault, they will use rougher methods — such as those now facing Caterpillar strikers — to achieve their goals.

In pressing its attack Caterpillar hopes to open the way to another rout of the labor movement, more extensive and devastating than that which occurred in the first half of the 1980s when two-tier contracts, wage givebacks, speed-up, and other concessions first became widespread in industry.

Union members should reject the advice of those such as former UAW president Douglas Fraser, who minimizes the significance of Caterpillar's attack. Currently a professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Fraser told the *New York Times* that "some say it will encourage union busting by the Big Three auto companies in 1993, but that's nonsense." It's professor Fraser who talks nonsense; the Big Three back Fites to the hilt.

Determination to fight

After five months on the picket lines, members of the UAW who work at Caterpillar have shown their determination not to back down and take such a head-in-the-sand approach. They tell reporters and fellow unionists traveling to Peoria and Decatur, Illinois, that they are fighting for the future of the labor movement. This, in part, is why they have refused to buckle to the company's "final offer" that would have imposed cutbacks, opened a two-tier wage system, and broken the pattern of similar union contracts at agricultural implement companies organized by the union.

The big-business media makes no bones about the significance of the conflict, showing the real views of the owners of banking and industry. "What the workers decide . . . is certain to have a profound impact on the future of the UAW, which has 900,000 members, and the host of companies for whom its members work," a *New York Times* article stated April 6. "We're quietly cheering for Caterpillar," a General Motors executive bluntly told the *Wall Street Journal*.

Caterpillar has already indicated that it intends to employ "considerably fewer" workers if it can break the union and impose the concessions demanded of the UAW. It beefed up Vance goon squads around the plants April 6, the day the company demanded union members return to their jobs or face being replaced by scabs.

Defend two socialists arrested by cops

Connected to this strike battle, another important fight is taking place in Peoria, one that shows what Caterpillar, the cops, and the government have in store for unionists and their supporters in the Caterpillar strike and similar future struggles.

Two socialist and trade union activists, Kate Kaku and Mary Zins, were arrested by police at the March 22 solidarity rally in Peoria. The two were taken out of the Civic Center where the rally was being held, handcuffed, put into a police car, searched, jailed, and charged with criminal trespass and obstructing a police officer.

Kaku is running for U.S. Senate in Illinois as the Socialist Workers candidate and is a member of the United Steelworkers of America in Chicago. Zins, a laid-off coal miner

and long-time activist in the United Mine Workers Union, is a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union from St. Louis. The two went to the rally to show their solidarity and campaign among the unionists present.

The arresting officer falsely accused Kaku and Zins of distributing literature inside the public rally. The charges, both misdemeanors, carry penalties of up to 13 months in prison and \$1,500 in fines.

In arresting Kaku and Zins the cops have shown what they are planning for UAW members on strike and their supporters. As the battle gets rougher, cops will victimize workers who resist Caterpillar's use of scabs and attempts to get production going again. Cop frame-ups of fighters will take place with the aim of intimidating others and tying the union up in defense efforts. The space to engage in politics of any kind will be narrowed.

A broad campaign must be organized to get the charges against Kaku and Zins dropped. The cops have shown their determination to press the fight: when protests were made against the arrests by local UAW officials the cops responded that the charges will be pursued regardless.

Opponents of this attack from all over the world should begin by writing to Kevin Lyons, Peoria County State's Attorney, 324 W. Main, Rm. 111, Peoria, IL 61602, to demand that the charges against Zins and Kaku be dropped immediately.

Caterpillar is acting as the point man in the employers' assault on working people today. They hope to send a message to the labor movement: that the employers can sap resistance, overcome union solidarity, and break any union. If that is the message that comes out of the strike it will have severe repercussions on the struggles of all working people — whether it be other strikes, actions condemning police brutality, protests against cuts in welfare spending, rallies of working farmers, and much more.

Labor must mobilize to get firmly behind the strike. Millions of working people know the rising stakes at Caterpillar and can be organized into the fight.

Union locals should send reinforcements to the picket lines. Unionists and other activists should go to Peoria to join the battle and bring back first-hand reports to public solidarity meetings, union events, student gatherings, and other forums. Solidarity actions can be held in cities across the country. Candidates for public office should place themselves on the picket lines to show where they stand.

Backing up the determination of the Caterpillar strikers with such a course of united labor action and public solidarity can turn the tide against the company and its war on the union. If successful, the labor movement can send a signal to the bosses and the government: we will resist and organize to fight your unceasing assault on all working people! It will send a welcome message to all those who are fighting for a woman's right to choose, against police brutality, and against the march toward war: Fight on; with our combined force we can reverse their offensive against human rights!

- Organize massive solidarity with the Caterpillar strikers!
- Drop the charges against Kate Kaku and Mary Zins!
- End the union-busting assault on the United Auto Workers union! Join the fight to defeat Caterpillar's war on labor!

This column is devoted to a discussion with our readers — printing remarks, questions, suggestions, and other comments sent to the *Militant*. Where possible we will take up issues raised in notes and letters as a way to help clarify and expand on the coverage in the paper.

Readers B.M. and George Kontanis comment in the letters section this week on *Militant* articles about demands for independence by the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia and the Greek government's opposition to it.

The government of the republic of Macedonia raised the demand for independence following the de facto break up of Yugoslavia through the ongoing civil war there.

The war was a result of decades of bureaucratic rule by the Stalinist regime in Yugoslavia. A deep-going and popular revolution coming out of World War II began to break down the divisions between the peoples of Yugoslavia — whether Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Albanians, Montenegrins, Mace-

DISCUSSION WITH OUR READERS

donians or others. These divisions were fostered by imperialism and the native capitalists.

Steps to further the unity of working people won through struggle in Yugoslavia were blocked by the Stalinist regime. As a result of the growing social and economic crisis over the past decade, ruling layers in the various regions have been pressing to enhance their own position and access to resources through force and violence.

While great numbers of people in different parts of Yugoslavia have been drawn into the fighting, voices continue to be heard against the war. Thousands of Belgrade students, for example, demonstrated in early March demanding Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic's resignation for his role in spurring the civil war.

The bureaucratic rulers of the republic of Macedonia have the same narrow goals as their Serb or Croatian counterparts. The attitude of communists toward demands for independence depends on whether a fight for such demands advances the interests of working people in a particular country. What is needed to advance working-class interests is a fight aimed at uniting workers in different parts of Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, and throughout the region.

A necessary part of such a fight for unity is the struggle against the oppression of any nationality, including suppression of languages, culture, or religions.

Before World War II, under the rule of King Alexander I, a Serb, Macedonians were forbidden by law to publish books or newspapers in their native language. This was reversed by the Yugoslav revolution, which championed the demands of oppressed nationalities. Following the overturn of capitalist rule in Yugoslavia the Macedonian language was recognized and in fact it is now written and standardized, contrary to what Kontanis asserts. It is a dialect of the Slavic language spoken in Bulgaria. Working people in the republic of Macedonia fought to preserve their language and to be allowed to use it.

Progressive measures were taken during the initial stages of the Yugoslav revolution to develop the economy of underdeveloped Macedonia. As a result, while industrial output in the more advanced regions of Croatia, Slovenia, and Serbia increased 9- or 10-fold from 1939 to 1970, in Macedonia the increase was 31-fold.

It was the example of this revolution that the Greek bourgeoisie and other capitalist classes in the region feared. B.M. correctly points out that a blow was dealt to Greek imperialism's plans to conquer Macedonia at the end of World War II.

Hatred for the Yugoslav revolution and what it accomplished comes through even today in arguments raised by spokespeople of the Greek ruling class to justify their opposition to recognition of Macedonia.

For example, in an open letter to the European Community, former Greek minister of culture Melina Merkouri and five other well-known personalities in Greece stated: "You of course are aware of the effort begun earlier and systematized after 1944 with the creation, in the framework of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, of the so-called state of 'Macedonia.' Its single goal, then and now, was the questioning of the borders of Greece, within which is included Greek Macedonia . . . with a homogeneous Greek population."

Recent demonstrations in Thessaloniki and in New York, sponsored by the Greek government, raised the slogan "Macedonia was, is, and will remain Greek." This is similar to the "America for the Americans" or "France first" slogans advanced by incipient fascist currents in the United States, France, and other imperialist countries.

As Kontanis points out there are oppressed nationalities in northern Greece, and indeed throughout the country, including hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrant workers, many of them from the Balkans. One of these is the Macedonian nationality comprising about 2 percent of the population of Greece. As B. M. notes, many are treated by the state as "agents of Skopje" [the capital of Macedonia] for attempting to use their language or their culture.

Communists and other fighters in Greece have in the past been charged with "treason" because they championed demands against the national oppression of Macedonians. One of them was Pantelis Pouliopoulos, national secretary of the Communist Party (KKE), until he was expelled in 1927 for his opposition to the counterrevolutionary course of Stalin. He was jailed twice by the Greek government for his proletarian stance on the Macedonian question — in 1924 and in 1928.

U.S. steelmaker demands union reopen contract

This column is devoted to reporting the resistance by working people to the employers' assault on their living standards, working conditions, and unions.

Working people around the world are involved in skirmishes over speedup, forced overtime, layoffs, and attacks on health and

workers. LTV is seeking an end to Sunday overtime pay, greater flexibility in overtime and vacation scheduling, increased health-care payments by unionists, and a cap on retiree benefits.

The revised plan also involves LTV selling off part of its nonsteel operations and using money raised

Workers at USAir seek union recognition

An important fight for union recognition is taking place at USAir, the nation's fifth largest airline. Fleet service workers, a category that includes baggage handlers and caterers, are in the process of signing ballots for the International Association of Machinists (IAM). This will lead to a bargaining election if enough signatures are gathered. The mechanics are already organized by the IAM.

USAir has proposed a \$430 million concession package to all its employees, union and nonunion alike, to counter the hundreds of millions of dollars it has lost as a result of mergers and the downturn in the economy.

The proposed concession package includes a 10 percent wage reduction, increased payments for health insurance, and a freeze on company payments into the pension plan.

The fleet service, representing some 8,000 of the 40,000 USAir workers, last year rejected representation by the Teamsters union. That election was marked by intense company propaganda against unions and the Teamsters in particular. Even the National Labor Relations Board ruled that USAir had engaged in "unfair labor practices" and mandated another election. The Teamsters still did not receive a majority of the votes needed and thus a significant section of the workers was left without union representation.

According to one IAM representative the sentiment for unionization seems to be high all around the system, including in Pittsburgh, Boston, Baltimore, and Charlotte, North Carolina. A group of baggage handlers was discussing the need for a

union and one remarked, "USAir wants to take our wages, our pensions, and our overtime as well as increase our workday. What did they expect we would do?"

USAir is the only major airline where the IAM has not been forced to take concessions and the company is intent on changing that situation. In late February the workers took a strike authorization vote — approved by a 90 percent margin — in order to show the company that the union is united against any concessions.

New Zealand textile workers fight lockout

Every morning at 5:30 a.m., in the cold and dark, a dozen pickets and their supporters huddle outside the two caravans that serve as picket shacks on either side of the entrance to Christchurch Carpet Yarns (CCY), a subsidiary of Mainzeal, a big construction company.

CCY is a wool-spinning factory of 130 workers in Christchurch, New Zealand's largest southern city. The management has locked out 76 workers who have refused to sign a new contract that undermines their current wages and conditions. Another dozen workers not served with lockout notices have sided with the pickets.

One of the placards at the entrance reads, "Only the strong will survive. The weak have crossed the line." Another says, "Cops — owned by Mainzeal."

Every day a dozen cops march up to the entrance in formation. Then a line of cars full of strikebreakers rounds the corner in convoy. Sometimes a truck of wool and supplies follows. The cops push the pickets aside and make way for the strike-

breakers and goods to enter. Atevery shift change the scene is similar, with bigger numbers of pickets later in the day.

During the last three weeks Mainzeal has taken the offensive in the five-week-old dispute. It has resumed some production with a skeleton staff of 45. Management has called in the cops, breached the picket line, and hired three temporary workers, promising to hire more. The cops have arrested 14 pickets and confiscated picket stakes, calling them "weapons."

All this has simply strengthened the pickets' resolve. No one has gone back to work. Everybody turns out for regular meetings. The needy receive gasoline vouchers and food parcels. A big picket party was held to raise funds and morale.

Australian waterfront unions have put a ban on handling containers loaded by nonunion labor at Christchurch Carpet Yarns. Other unionists have visited the picket line and donated money. Workers from Argyle Fabrics, a local textile plant took a collection for the pickets. The local Seafarers Union, which won a lengthy dispute last year, has given generously. North Island Meat Workers Union officials contributed NZ \$700 (US\$378) while visiting Christchurch for their national conference.

The following people contributed to this week's column: Michael Italie, member of United Steelworkers of America Local 14919, and Don Mackle, member of USWA Local 1170 in Cleveland; Edwin Fruit, member of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 846 in Baltimore; and Malcolm McAllister in Christchurch, New Zealand.

ON THE PICKET LINE

safety benefits. Some unionists faced with sharp takeback demands, lockouts, and union-busting moves have gone on strike to force the bosses to back down.

We invite you to contribute short items to this column as a way for other fighting workers around the world to read about and learn from these important struggles. Jot down a few lines to let other *Militant* readers know about what is happening at your workplace or in your union. If there is an interesting political discussion going on at work, we would like to hear about that too.

Under the cover of bankruptcy proceedings one of the nation's largest steel manufacturers is demanding the United Steelworkers of America reopen its contract and accept concessions.

LTV Steel Corp. announced in mid-February that it had reached an agreement with creditors that would allow it to come out of bankruptcy by the end of the year. The steel manufacturer has been in bankruptcy proceedings since 1986.

A key part of the company proposal involves renegotiating its wage and benefit plan with union

through the sale to pay the \$2 billion of unfunded steelworker pension obligations.

The current union contract does not expire until August 1993. Steelworkers at LTV accepted a concession contract in 1986, just months before the company declared bankruptcy. In 1990 the union signed a contract which eliminated the 1986 concessions and brought wages and benefits up to par with other basic steel companies.

The USWA international officials have announced that they are willing to negotiate a new contract. "They [LTV] intend to ask the bankruptcy court for permission to throw out or 'reject' our current labor contract, even though that very contract forbids this," said a union statement. "Our willingness to cooperate with reasonable company actions is exceeded only by our determination to fight unjustified takeaways."

The company has just won a tax abatement of \$910,000 a year for the next 10 years from the Cleveland city government. The company will use the savings to install new equipment at its Cleveland facility. The company threatened that all 6,800 jobs at the plant could be lost if the tax abatement was not granted.

LETTERS

Buchanan's gay-bashing

It was refreshing that a mainstream columnist had the integrity to correctly define Patrick Buchanan's politics. Still in his column, Charles Krauthammer neglected gays and lesbians as a popular target of Buchanan's hate campaign. Buchanan has told the press that AIDS is a form of "(divine?) retribution for the homosexual lifestyle." During a press conference at the New Hampshire primary, an AIDS activist was bodily removed by Buchanan supporters when he attempted to heckle the candidate. Outside the hall, the activist was physically roughed up by the Buchanan aides. This is standard fare by right-wing goons who are inspired and attracted to fascist demagogues like Buchanan.

Buchanan's attacks on gays dovetail with the backlash and increasing attacks on women's rights. It is part and parcel of the classic fascist scheme of forcing society to return to the most oppressive and stultifying aspects of the nuclear family and its role in capitalist society.

Craig McKissic
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Book reviews

Please consider doing a review of, or article on, two recently published books: *Backlash: the Undeclared War on American Women*, by Susan Faludi, and *The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty are Used Against Women*, by Naomi Wolf.

Both books (particularly Faludi's) are garnering a great deal of publicity and are bestsellers, being read and discussed from "Donahue" to *Time* to college women's studies courses. Young women, in particular, are interested in the books' analyses of society's attitudes toward and representations of women. Wolf's book seems especially deft

in pointing out the ways in which capitalism depends on the maintenance of a pool of cheap female labor and perpetuates the images and ideals of women as thin, young, and sexually submissive as an important means of social and political control.

I'd be very interested in hearing what the *Militant* has to say about these books and their ideas and in whether or not they provide an accurate analysis of the current state of women's oppression.

Also, a timely review of "American Dream," the Barbara Kopple documentary on the P-9 strike, would be great. It's currently showing in New York.

Marty Michaels
Washington, D.C.

Strength in unity

The heart of a militant must one day find rest. Our strength is in unity. An oppressive system is our common enemy. Yet too many people remain blind to the tactics of this government to keep those like myself and yourselves closed mouthed and lost in the prison system.

Please send me anything to read on the socialist movement.

A prisoner
Comstock, New York

Macedonia I

The *Militant* in the March 13th issue correctly criticizes the European Community (EC) for bowing to Greek capitalist demands that the Yugoslavian republic of Macedonia be denied independent recognition. It also spotlights ambitions the Athens government has harbored in the past for areas of Southern Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

But one must correct the *Militant* on the question of a separate Macedonian nationality which the article implies. There is no such thing! No Macedonian language,

no Macedonian ethnic group, no Macedonian literature. In fact the majority of the people in Yugoslav Macedonia are of Bulgarian origin and speak Slavic since the Bulgarian language disappeared centuries ago. The inhabitants of Greek Macedonia speak Greek. Greek Macedonia, the origin of Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic dynasties of the Ancient Middle East, whose rule the generals of Alexander's army spawned, the rule of the Ptolemies and Cleopatra in Egypt being the most well-known, spoke a language — Greek in origin — similar to that spoken by the ancient Spartans.

In modern times, after the forced deportation of almost two million Greeks from Asia-Minor and the Pontus (area around the Black Sea), Thessalonica and Greek Macedonia, where most of the refugees settled, became a center of radical resistance to the capitalist designs of the Athens government, and where many refugees, traumatized by the "Asia-Minor Catastrophe," turned to the Greek Communist party and Socialist left for leadership.

There are of course ethnic minorities in Greek Macedonia, as well as Thrace and Thessaly, whose rights the nationalist capitalist regimes in Athens, whether royalist or republican, have never protected. But that is a different question from implying the existence of a separate Macedonian nation. As far as I know neither the inhabitants of Yugoslav nor Greek Macedonia consider themselves a separate people.

In any case we can agree on the most important point. Greece should join Bulgaria and Turkey and urge rather than obstruct the EC's recognition of Yugoslav Macedonia. Athens should also pressure the nationalist bureaucracy ruling in Belgrade to let Yugoslav Macedonia deter-

mine its own destiny.

George Kontanis
New York, New York.

Macedonia II

A World News Briefs article in the *Militant* noted that the Greek government protested the declaration of independence by the Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, fearing that this "might give rise to demands for rights among the ethnic Macedonian minority in Greece."

The fact is that this oppressed minority has been raising their national demands in Greece for decades. Much like the Kurds, the Macedonians were divided by imperialism and the local capitalists within the borders of what became Bulgaria, Greece, and Yugoslavia. In World War II, Greek imperialism aimed to conquer Macedonia but a deadly blow to this plan was the armed struggle of the Macedonians which culminated in the formation of their republic as part of the Yugoslav federation in 1945.

With the crushing of the Greek revolution in 1949 and the subsequent sealing of the border, almost every Macedonian family in the province of Florina to this day has relatives on the other side who are not allowed to come to Greece. They are subjected to terror by the police in Greece who see anyone who speaks Macedonian, who sings their traditional songs, or dances their traditional dances as "an agent of Skopje."

The Greek government has been whipping up nationalist chauvinism to convince working people to look for the wrong enemy. This reactionary campaign supported by all major political parties, the union bureaucracy, women's and youth organizations, and the church resulted in a march of 1 million in Thessaloniki at the beginning of March around the slogan "Macedonia is Greek."

Class-conscious workers face the task of explaining the imperialist aims of Greek capitalism and while supporting the just demands of the Macedonians, they must demand: Open the borders to the republic of Macedonia now!

B. M.
Thessaloniki, Greece

Cuba today

I would like to strongly encourage you to devote as much space in the *Militant* as you can to coverage of Cuba today, its shortages, solutions and future plans. This subject is in need of maximum coverage in my opinion. Also, news of SWP (in New York) in the November elections.

Peter Metcalfe
East Rochester, New York

Great newspaper

Great newspaper!! It covers the labor beat like no one else in the mainstream press. Could we have a book review section? Could we have follow-up coverage of working class struggles after the strikes are over? For example, what are the meatpackers in Minnesota thinking about now, what are they doing? Keep up the great work. Though my job keeps me from reading every issue — the bosses would love that! — I'm always inspired and energized when I do, knowing that the struggle continues internationally.

R.F.
Rolling Meadow, Illinois

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Socialists launch statewide campaigns

Illinois

BY JOHN VOTAVA
AND CLAUDIA HOMMEL

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois — Five newspapers and two radio stations attended a press conference here that presented the Socialist Workers Party state-wide slate.

Kate Kaku, who works in a machine shop organized by the United Steelworkers of America, is the SWP candidate for U.S. Senate. She will be joined on the slate by University of Illinois Board of Trustees candidates Patricia Smith-Chiloane, John Votava, and Margaret Savage. Al Duncan will run for the First Congressional District seat and Ellen Haywood for the 21st Congressional seat on the Socialist Workers ticket.

Kaku answered reporters' questions, explaining the significance of Patrick Buchanan's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination. "Buchanan's presence in the race," she said, "signifies an attempt by part of the ruling families in this country to significantly step up the attacks on the standard of living of working people on the basis of anti-Semitic and anti-immigrant demagoguery."

Kaku said that workers in the United States have no interest in participating in Japanese bashing or in any kind of schemes to put "America first."

"Japanese workers, like all other workers in the world including those of us here, face the same problems and the same obstacles," she added.

"We need to develop strategies to unify workers and small farmers from every country," Kaku said, holding up a pamphlet called the *Action Program*, which outlines the ideas of the Socialist Workers campaign on how this can be accomplished.

Congressional candidate Haywood explained that she, Kaku, and other supporters were heading to the coal fields in southern Illinois to start campaigning immediately following the press conference. After that they would talk to farmers in the central Illinois area, speak at a forum at the University of Illinois in Champaign, and end up in Peoria to participate in the March 22 rally in support of the Caterpillar strike.

Toward the end of the press conference, a reporter asked if the socialists thought they would get a good hearing since, with the decline of the former Soviet Union, socialism is not in "vogue" at this time.

Haywood answered that she had already found a lot of interest from her coworkers in what she has to say, given all the problems they face on a daily basis.

Georgia

BY MACEO DIXON

ATLANTA — Socialist Workers Party candidate Ed Hill and supporters petitioned at a "Buy American" rally at the Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. Nearly 1,000 people attended the March 14 rally, including many from General Motors' Doraville, Georgia, plant, which the company is threatening to close next year.

"This Buy American campaign is not the way forward in fighting the real problems we face worldwide," said Hill, who is running for Fifth District Fulton County Commissioner. "This perspective pits U.S. workers against Japanese and other foreign-born workers."

The Buy American rally was organized by Pat Domenicone, a local Cadillac dealer. United Auto Workers Local 10, which organizes workers at the GM Doraville plant, aggressively promoted the rally.

Some signs stated, "Say NO to Tokyo Joe. If you own a foreign car and are unemployed, you bought yourself out of a job." A number of participants wore T-shirts depicting a mushroom cloud from a nuclear bomb explosion with the slogan: "Made by lazy Americans, tested in Japan."



Socialist Workers candidates launched Illinois election campaign with press conference in Springfield, the state capital. From left: Margaret Savage, Pat Smith-Chiloane, Ellen Haywood, Kate Kaku, John Votava.

Most workers favored import quotas to restrict Japanese products. At one point a rally participant blocked traffic and yelled at a woman in a BMW car. "You need to buy an American-made car," he shouted bitterly. Another rallygoer said, "I sure hope this doesn't get ugly. That's not why I'm here."

"That is exactly where these Buy American campaigns lead," Hill responded. "They lead us to attacking scapegoats instead of recognizing that the cause of job loss is capitalism."

Hill needs 655 signatures of registered voters to get on the ballot for the April 28 special election. Campaign supporters plan to collect 1,000 signatures in two weeks. In the first three days 460 were gathered.

Hill's campaign has been getting a good response among workers. On the first day 25 people bought copies of his campaign news-

paper, the *Militant*.

Many responded to the issues Hill's campaign is raising, especially opposition to the U.S. government's war moves and support for workers fighting to defend their working conditions such as in the Caterpillar strike centered in Peoria, Illinois.

Maceo Dixon is a member of International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 2665.

New Jersey

BY CINDY JAQUITH

NEWARK, New Jersey — Police brutality and the danger of another U.S. war against Iraq are uppermost on the minds of working people in New Jersey who are signing peti-

tions to place Socialist Workers Party candidates on the ballot for U.S. Congress. The socialists opened their petitioning drive March 21, collecting more than double the number of signatures required for ballot status in two of the districts in which they are fielding candidates.

Heading the 1992 Socialist Workers ticket in New Jersey is William Ted Leonard, a longtime trade union and political activist who is also a member of the SWP National Committee. Leonard is running in the 10th Congressional District, centered in Newark. Leonard spent several months in Wichita, Kansas, in 1991 helping organize a response from unionists and other supporters of women's rights to Operation Rescue's rightist assault on abortion clinics in that city.

The majority of signatures for Leonard were collected at a table right outside his campaign headquarters in downtown Newark. Many workers were attracted by the socialists' opposition to another war against the Iraqi people and their defense of abortion rights. A young Black man who passed by the campaign table decided to spend an hour petitioning as well. The campaigners collected 139 signatures by the end of the day.

A team of socialist campaigners went to southern New Jersey to petition for Olga Rodriguez, who is running on the SWP ticket in the 2nd Congressional District, a farming region. The socialists petitioned in Bridgeton among Black workers and migrant Mexican farm workers. Many agreed to sign the petitions because of their concern over police brutality — not a single one of the many cops who have slain Black and Latino youth in the state in the last year have been punished — and unemployment.

In Jersey City, socialists petitioned for Jane Harris, a locomotive engineer and member of United Transportation Union-Local 800, who is the SWP candidate in the 13th Congressional District. Harris works at the Hoboken terminal of New Jersey Transit. The district also includes Union City, with its large Cuban-American and Central American populations.

Campaign supporters need to collect 50 signatures of registered voters in each district in which they are running by April 9.

Canadian fishermen launch protest as international rivalry sharpens

BY ROGER ANNIS

MONTREAL — Thousands of people gathered along the harborfront in St. John's, Newfoundland, March 29 to mark the departure of a flotilla of Canadian fishing craft heading into international waters to protest the presence of European fishing boats there.

The flotilla is organized by the Fisheries Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, an organization representing some 40 fish processing companies, and officials of the Newfoundland-based Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers union (FFAW).

The two groups are campaigning to end fishing by European companies in the fishing grounds that extend into international waters beyond Canada's 200-mile territorial limit. They are calling on the Canadian government to unilaterally declare sovereignty in this area and to use the Canadian navy if necessary to enforce such a grab.

Their campaign is organized in response to the worst crisis ever to hit the fishing industry in Atlantic Canada. Fish stocks are at historic lows in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean as decades of plundering by the Canadian and European capitalists that own the fishing industry have caused a rapid decline in most commercial fish species.

As the fish have disappeared, more and more fishing craft and processing plants have

been left idle.

In Canada, the province of Newfoundland has been the hardest hit. An estimated 8,000 jobs have been lost in the cod fishery there since 1989 when the devastation of the fish stocks began to be felt in a big way.

Seasonal layoffs for those still working have become longer and more frequent.

Government and fish company officials in Canada blame the decline in fish stocks on overfishing by their capitalist competitors in Europe. Their views are echoed by most fishery union officials. Speaking at a rally in Ottawa in March, Richard Cashin, president of the FFAW, said in announcing plans for the flotilla, "We're going to get our message to the European Community, these bunch of hypocrites."

"This is an environmental issue. We're in danger of losing our fish stocks and 600,000 Newfoundlanders," he added. "Our union and others will be on the Grand Banks to claim these waters for Newfoundland and Canada."

The March 29 sailing was financed by the fishing companies. Union fishermen, many of whom are unemployed, are staffing the boats.

The crisis came to a head over the February 24 decision by Canada's Minister of Fisheries John Crosbie to cut the 1992 quota allotted

to Canadian fishermen and fish company fleets for northern codfish in the waters surrounding Newfoundland. The cod is the most commercially valuable fish species in the North Atlantic.

Shrinking quotas

The 1992 northern cod quota is 120,000 tons. That is down from 185,000 tons in 1991 and about one-seventh the annual catch in the same waters 20 years ago.

The cod fishery employs 30,000 people in Atlantic Canada. Last year cod landings were valued at \$700 million.

The fishing grounds in dispute are the Grand Banks, a rich fishing area which extends off the coast of Newfoundland.

Of the Grand Banks waters, 90 percent lie within Canada's 200-mile territorial limit. Foreign fishing craft have very limited access to the fish in these waters. Their quota for all species in 1992 is 53,000 tons, down 40 percent from last year and less than 10 percent of the 1977 quotas.

Spain and Portugal, the main competitors with Canada for North Atlantic groundfish, are completely excluded from Canadian territorial waters.

According to Canadian authorities, in the 10 percent of the Grand Banks territory that

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